FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 MAY 1987

Gulf Affairs

Iran on U.S., Soviets — Commenting on Richard Murphy's Gulf tour in an editorial cited by Tehran radio, *Jomhuri-ye Eslami* said the U.S. assistant secretary of state is entrusted with assuring the regional shaykhs that the United States is still able to protect them and that there has been no change in U.S. policies. The Tehran paper contended that the United States is trying to compensate for its "failures" by bringing the USSR into the Gulf, adding that the Russians are falling into a "trap" set for them by the Americans. As for the 6 May attack on a Soviet freighter, the radio cited *Ettela'at*'s view that Western reports blaming Iran for the incident were part of a "plot" to undermine Soviet-Iranian relations. It would not be far-fetched to see another Soviet vessel being attacked by the Americans or by a state in the southern part of the Gulf in order to further worsen Soviet-Iranian relations by holding Iran responsible, the paper asserted. *Ettela'at* emphasized the particular importance which Iran attaches to maintaining good relations with the USSR, but it criticized the latter's current "hostile" policy and urged the Soviets to show "prudence" in their dealings with Iran.

Soviet Criticism of Iran — Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy confirmed that the USSR holds Iran responsible for the attack on a Soviet freighter and noted that his country has sent Iran a memorandum on the incident, KUNA disclosed in a report from Moscow. The UN Security Council should adopt a firm resolution calling for an end to the Iran-Iraq war, Petrovskiy said, and "punitive measures" should be taken against any of the warring parties which rejects the resolution.

Kuwait Explosion — KUNA cited an Interior Ministry announcement that investigations are underway to catch those responsible for an 11 May bomb explosion that killed the janitor of a Kuwait travel agency.

Israel

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told Likud MK's 12 May that he rejects the notion of an international conference in a final and resolute manner, stressing that he will not agree to any bargaining or compromise on the issue, Jerusalem radio reported. He contended that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' proposal lacks real substance and indicates a wish to get rid of all of Israel's security assets. Peres is even willing to give up the Golan Heights and East Jerusalem in order to attain exclusive power in Israel, Shamir claimed.

A *Hadashot* report on the 11 May Inner Cabinet session disclosed that Shamir and the Likud ministers rejected the Alignment's proposal to invite Secretary of State George Shultz on a shuttle trip to the area.

Egypt

MENA reported that two persons have been arrested on suspicion of shooting former Interior Minister Major General Hasan Abu Basha. An Interior Ministry source cited by the agency had earlier implicated the Al-Jihad organization in the 5 May attack on Abu Basha.

PLO-Syria

PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir announced that neither he nor a delegation from the PLO Executive Committee will visit Syria soon, Algiers Voice of Palestine radio reported. The radio cited a press statement by Al-Wazir in which he noted that Syria has not yet responded to the PLO's stance at the Algiers PNC and acknowledged that current efforts to arrange a PLO official visit to Damascus have thus far proved fruitless. In a related development, the radio cited PFLP leader George Habash's view that Palestinian unity will be incomplete without a reconciliation between PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Syria is a natural and irreplaceable ally for the Palestinians, Habash said, and a permanent and just peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved without an end to the conflict between the PLO and Syria.

Libya-Chad

JANA reported that Libyan forces have "handed over" their positions in the Tibesti region to the forces of former GUNT leader Goukouni Oueddei "in the framework of the return of the natural alliance" between the Libyan and Chadian revolutions.

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Arab League Delegation 'Happy' With Reagan Meeting

LD082015 Kuwait KUNA in English 1817 GMT 8 May 87

[By Raphael Calis]

[Excerpts] Washington, May 8 (KUNA) — President Reagan Friday reassured an Arab League peace delegation visiting here that the United States is determined to reassert its role in bringing about a negotiated end to the war between Iran and Iraq under United Nations auspices.

President Reagan met here with the Arab League team for nearly 20 minutes to express his support for the Arab League's efforts aimed at ending the Gulf war peacefully.

Emerging from the meeting at the White House, the head of the Arab League delegation, Yemeni Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Karim 'Iryani told KUNA, "we are extremely happy with the meeting. We have heard a very positive statement from President which goes along the same lines like that statement he issued on Feb 25 on Gulf security and the Iran-Iraq war."

'Iryani added, "President Reagan assured us of the U.S. conviction that the world must shoulder its responsibility to bring an end to this conflict and particularly through the United Nations Security Council."

Noting that the Arab League delegation is "on a mission of peace," 'Iryani said, "We think that peace and security in the region is important to the entire world. We believe it is essential and an absolute necessity that an honorable peace should be achieved in the area."

President Reagan had been scheduled to receive only three members of the delegation, but in a last minute change of schedule Thursday night, all seven members of the Arab League mission here were invited to meet with the President.

In addition to 'Iryani, the delegation that met with Reagan included Bahrain's Foreign Minister Muhammad ibn Mubarak al-Khalifah and the undersecretary of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry Wissim al-Zahawi.

Also present was the Arab League ambassador in Washington Clovis Maksud, Saudi Ambassador Prince Bandar, and Jordanian Ambassador Muhammad Kamal. [passage omitted]

The Yemeni minister, in reply to another question by KUNA in front of the White House garden, said,

"I believe that the United States is now ready to support taking appropriate reinforcement measures against any party that refuses to cooperate with the formal efforts of the Security Council to end the war."

'Iryani said, in answer to another question, that President Reagan did reemphasize the U.S. determination to work more actively and vigilantly on "Operation Staunch" to prevent U.S. allies from supplying arms to Iran.

Maksud, speaking on behalf of the other members of the delegation, said, "President Reagan was forthcoming in reasserting the American position on this level and working through the Security Council to give more peace in terms of measures of penalty for whichever party that does not comply with the resolutions of the Security Council."

In his statement to KUNA, 'Iryani said President Reagan's views were the same echoed in the Feb 25 statement issued by the President. [passage omitted]

Members of the Arab League delegation, speaking to KUNA after the White House meeting at their hotel, said they consider it a major success to Arab diplomatic efforts that there is a change in the U.S. position on the sanctions.

The members, who asked not to be named, said the statement issued by the State Department on Thursday will now encourage the Arab countries to more actively seek a solution to the war through negotiations and under United Nations auspices.

The Arab officials said they hope that the change in the U.S. position on the sanctions and the enforcement of Security Council resolutions will be brought up at the forthcoming Venice economic summit of Western nations and will encourage other countries, like West Germany and Britain, to change their position on the sanctions, which they had opposed until now.

'Iryani told KUNA also that the success of the League mission to Washington coincides with the favorable results that other Arab League delegations have achieved in places like Moscow, Paris, and London in the past few weeks.

Iraqi, Syrian Leaders Agree on Improving Ties

PM111057 Kuwait AL-QABAS INTERNATIONAL in Arabic 7 May 87 pp 1,2

[Report by diplomatic editor: "Eight Points of Agreement Between Saddam and Al-Asad"]

[Text] *Al-Qabas* learned from well-informed Arab sources yesterday that Presidents Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad agreed during their meeting in Al-Jufur last week on general principles to improve relations between their two countries. Specialized ministerial committees will implement the required executive procedures at subsequent meetings.

U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait Anthony Cecil Quainton told *Al-Qabas* yesterday he could neither confirm nor deny that the meeting had been held.

Leaving no room for doubt, some informed Arab sources stated yesterday that the meeting included two rounds: The first lasted 3 hours and the second 2 hours in the presence of King Husayn and Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah, but there were no ministers or other officials there beyond personal aides.

Through its contact yesterday with officials in a number of informed and concerned capitals, *Al-Qabas* has obtained some

items from the minutes of the Iraqi-Syrian meeting, which included the basic principles agreed upon. These principles are:

1. — Gradually stopping media campaigns.

2. — Holding comprehensive meetings between the prime ministers of both countries (or people acting on their behalf).

3. — Holding meetings between the interior ministers of both countries.

4. — Holding an open meeting between the two presidents on the fringe of the next Arab summit, which the two presidents agreed should be held in Riyadh.

5. — Refraining from any secret operations against one another.

6. — Holding meetings between the oil ministers of both countries to discuss oil issues and economic matters, including the possibility of reopening the oil pipeline that sends Iraqi oil through Syria to Lebanon.

7. — Exchanging political prisoners.

8. — Subsequent meetings are to take the form of joint committees.

The problem of the Euphrates River, which is one of the major disputes between the two states, was also examined.

The important achievement concerns security relations and the border question, including the problem of each country's support for opposition forces, which enables each to work against the other. In this context, a public conference for the Iraqi opposition which Damascus had decided to convene to promote action against Iraq has been canceled. It has also been agreed that Syria should no longer back the Kurds in northern Iraq and other opposition forces that carry out acts of violence that disturb Iraq's relations with Turkey and waste its resources. An end to Iraq's support for opposition forces within Syria was studied as well.

The agreement came as a result of numerous security meetings held recently to stop the flow of violence back and forth.

Syria Reportedly Postpones PLO Delegation Visits

JN110503 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
9 May 87 pp 1, 8

[By Basimah Mafadi in Tunis]

[Text] Syria has decided to put off the reception of any PLO delegation to see how the 18th PNC session resolutions will work out in practice over the next 3 months, as Syrian officials put it, according to senior Palestinian sources in Tunis.

The sources told *Al-Ittihad* that the Syrians took a hard-line position during the meeting with PFLP Secretary General George Habash despite the positive outcome of the PNC deliberations. The sources said the Syrians told Dr Habash they will not receive a delegation from the PLO or anywhere else in the near future.

Following his meeting with Syrian officials Thursday evening, Dr Habash said a reconciliation between Syria and the PLO will be contingent on the behavior of the PLO in the coming months, as President al-Asad told the PFLP leader, who pointed out that the outcome of the PNC session will remain incomplete without a reconciliation between Syria and the PLO.

On the detention by Syrian security authorities of 17 leading Palestinian figures in the DFLP, the Palestine Liberation Front, and the Palestinian Communist Party at Damascus Airport upon their return from the PNC meetings in Algiers, the sources told *Al-Ittihad* they were expelled Thursday, 7 May. Some of them were placed on a flight to Libya, others to Prague, and the remainder to other capitals, the sources added. The expulsions mark a tough stand by Syria toward leaders of the Palestinian factions that attended the PNC session in Algiers, they said.

The leaders of the PFLP, DFLP, and the Palestine Liberation Front were asked by Syria at the conclusion of the PNC deliberations to delay their return to Damascus. However, the PFLP leadership subsequently received word that it could return. Hence the visit by Dr George Habash as agreed upon in the first meeting of the PLO Executive Committee and during the meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and Dr Habash on the eve of 'Arafat's departure from Algiers. Among the most prominent of those expelled were Qays al-Samarra'i, also known as Abu Layla, a DFLP Political Bureau member; Abu Sami, a member of the Political Bureau of the Palestine Liberation Front; and Muhammad Abu Sham'a, member of the Palestine Communist Party Central Committee.

Meanwhile, Khalil al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, has told *Al-Ittihad* that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi viewed the PNC session positively and expressed his complete satisfaction with its resolutions. Abu Jihad said a number of bilateral issues with Libya were discussed and that Col al-Qadhdhafi announced a resumption of the activities of the PLO office in Libya rather than its reopening. He said that under the terms of an agreement between Col al-Qadhdhafi and the PLO delegation, which also included DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah, an enlarged PLO delegation will visit Libya to prepare for a trip there by Yasir 'Arafat.

The visit will take place after the Executive Committee meeting at the end of this week, when a decision is to be made on the trip and the delegation's composition.

Al-Wazir on Lack of Syrian Response to PLO Stance

LD111818 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestine Revolution Forces, has stressed that neither he nor a delegation from PLO Executive Committee will be visiting Syria in the near future.

In a statement, he added that Syrian officials have yet to give any sign of a response to the PLO stance defined at the Algiers PNC.

In his statement, he added that the efforts of some brothers to prepare for a visit by a delegation from the PLO Executive Committee have not borne fruit. However, their work will continue, because, we, for our part, are eager to see a rapid return to normal relations with Syria in light of the political program ratified by the PNC, which defeats any excuse for a negative Syrian position on the PLO.

Brother Abu Jihad emphasized that the platform ratified by the Algiers PNC session reflects an independent Palestinian national option and is not a response to the demands of any Arab or international force. He also noted that the national and pan-Arab interest demands a Palestinian-Syrian meeting. We would not go to such a gathering from a position of weakness, with hat in hand. The reaction of the United States and certain Arabs to the PNC resolutions should be sufficient to make Syrian officials respond to the PLO. After all, this would be in the interest of the Palestinian, Syrian, and Arab struggle against the Zionist enemy and America's conspiracies.

Habash Urges 'Arafat, Al-Asad 'Reconciliation'

LD111834 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] PFLP Secretary General Comrade George Habash has stated that Palestinian unity will not be complete without a reconciliation between Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

In an interview, Comrade Habash said that, for the Palestinians, Syria is a natural and irreplaceable ally in the fight.

He added that he will do all he can, through cooperation with the Soviet Union and some Arab states, to engineer a reconciliation between Yasir 'Arafat and Hafiz al-Asad, as there can be no Palestinian revolution without Syria.

He pointed out that a just and permanent regional peace will not be achieved without an end to the 4-and-1/2-year conflict between the PLO and Syria.

As for the international conference on the Middle East, the PFLP secretary general emphasized that no international conference, regardless of framework or form, can be held without the participation of a completely independent PLO delegation. He added that even if such a conference were held, the Arabs should not wait for anything to come out of it from the Zionists, who are acting from a position of political and military strength. He explained that the establishment of a Palestinian state requires armed struggle.

PNSF Prepares 'Action Program' For PLO Unity

JN120604 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
0500 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] The PNSF, the pro-Syrian Palestinian coalition, announced yesterday that it is preparing an action program for Palestinian unity within the PLO.

PNSF spokesman Khalid 'Abd al-Majid said the PNSF met in Damascus yesterday and discussed the latest Palestinian developments, particularly the achievement of national unity on clear political and organizational bases opposed to imperialism, Zionism, and reactionary plans. As for the contents of this plan, the PNSF spokesman said only that talks will continue to draw up a final draft, which will be released soon.

Abu Nidal on Armed Struggle, Fatah Council

PM111013 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic
9-15 May 87 pp 8-12

[Interview with Sabri al-Banna, identified by his nom de guerre Abu Nidal, leader of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, by Hamidah Na'na; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] *Al-Tadamun*: We would like to start with a customary but necessary question, which is: Who are you, how did you come to the Palestinian revolution, how did you take up the road of armed struggle, and why did you resort to the sort of action that has led to your portrayal as a terrorist spreading terror throughout the world?

Abu Nidal: It is difficult at this point to discount the effects of the continuing large-scale media campaign, despite the fact it has abated somewhat. For the past 14 years or more, the imperialist-Zionist campaign was tremendous, and unfortunately it used some Arab and Palestinian tools; it was a campaign of incredible influence and magnitude — newspapers, radio, television, books, leaflets, statements, and every other form of expression contributed to it. It is easy to identify the motives and reasons, yet it is difficult to thwart this campaign all at once. At the moment, some of the waves have broken up, as some of the parties that helped this campaign and served as one of its platforms are the ones for whom we have several questions. Journalists, media men, and social scientists should be asked: Why do you meet with this "beast," as they have described me. I believe the meeting now with those concerned should answer the question: Who gave the other reason for criticism? [as published]

Al-Tadamun: Who is Abu Nidal, really?

Abu Nidal: I am a Palestinian fighter who made a modest contribution to the launching of the Palestinian revolution. For many long years I was one of the most disciplined and most committed to its principles and plan. I have stood by the central nature of this cause from the very start. With my comrades and brothers in the Fatah Movement I have made a contribution in the form of many internal activities. I concentrated on the internal side, for I strongly believed there could be no victory without an organization that could defeat that of the Zionist

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[Interview with Sabri al-Banna, identified by his nom de guerre Abu Nidal, leader of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, by Hamidah Na'na; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] *Al-Tadamun*: We would like to start with a customary but necessary question, which is: Who are you, how did you come to the Palestinian revolution, how did you take up the road of armed struggle, and why did you resort to the sort of action that has led to your portrayal as a terrorist spreading terror throughout the world?

Abu Nidal: It is difficult at this point to discount the effects of the continuing large-scale media campaign, despite the fact it has abated somewhat. For the past 14 years or more, the imperialist-Zionist campaign was tremendous, and unfortunately it used some Arab and Palestinian tools; it was a campaign of incredible influence and magnitude — newspapers, radio, television, books, leaflets, statements, and every other form of expression contributed to it. It is easy to identify the motives and reasons, yet it is difficult to thwart this campaign all at once. At the moment, some of the waves have broken up, as some of the parties that helped this campaign and served as one of its platforms are the ones for whom we have several questions. Journalists, media men, and social scientists should be asked: Why do you meet with this "beast," as they have described me. I believe the meeting now with those concerned should answer the question: Who gave the other reason for criticism? [as published]

Al-Tadamun: Who is Abu Nidal, really?

Abu Nidal: I am a Palestinian fighter who made a modest contribution to the launching of the Palestinian revolution. For many long years I was one of the most disciplined and most committed to its principles and plan. I have stood by the central nature of this cause from the very start. With my comrades and brothers in the Fatah Movement I have made a contribution in the form of many internal activities. I concentrated on the internal side, for I strongly believed there could be no victory without an organization that could defeat that of the Zionist

movement. Perhaps the European and American computers have made many mistakes. However, the Zionists have always realized the danger of such thinking. Organization is more than simply arranging cells, committees, and branches; it covers every aspect of life. Like all our people in this part of Arab Palestine, I was raised in very complex and difficult conditions. The Zionist movement threw us into the gutters and alleys of Arab towns. We have lived this life despite ourselves, since we had no choice but to live it the way we did. We have fought. I had an early opportunity to engage in struggle within the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. Then the Fatah Movement came into being, the movement to which I contributed from the very start. I am a father who would lead a natural life if conditions allowed. If imperialist-Zionist persecution comes to an end I am interested in rereading Arab history to reach some new conclusions. I am influenced by talent and have a good ear that absorbs things rapidly.

Al-Tadamun: When did you join the Ba'th Party and under what circumstances? What did you study?

Abu Nidal: I joined the party from the town of Nabulus. I was young and yet, despite my youth, I was made a member. I had a brother who was part of the Ba'th Party regional command. As for my studies, in the early days I was in the Al-Ayyubiyah school in Jaffa and then I moved to the Freres school in the same town.

Al-Tadamun: You are a Freres school student, which means you speak French.

Abu Nidal: Somewhat... a little. I was expelled from school and my expulsion became a national cause.

Al-Tadamun: Why were you expelled?

Abu Nidal: There was a Nazi fascist teacher. I was expelled with four other students.

Al-Tadamun: Was this before the first [Israeli] occupation of Palestine?

Abu Nidal: Yes, before 1948. One of my expelled colleagues was a Christian and we were three Muslims. A political party took up the cause of our expulsion in the Palestinian newspapers. Then the Islamic al-Rawdah College in Jerusalem decided to accept us as boarders at its own expense. That was in 1945.

Al-Tadamun: You were in the Ba'th Party until 1962, when the party was on the rise and represented the pan-Arab dream. The liberation of Palestine is one of the important points in the party's program and yet you left it to join the Fatah Movement. Did you feel Fatah brings you closer to Palestine than the Ba'th Party?

Abu Nidal: There are things I cannot talk about, as that would do more harm than good. As to why Fatah, as you know there were several movements that were searching for a practical path to launch an armed struggle. These movements got together and expressed themselves through the Fatah Movement before the PLO was established under the leadership of struggler Ahmad al-Shuqayri. Neither I nor those like me had any regional inclinations; rather, the motive was clearly pan-Arab. I had a number of comrades with me who came to the movement from the Ba'th Party. These included Faruq Qaddumi, Muhammad Abu Mayzar, and others. There was more than one reason. There was a debate regarding the theory of involvement, the theory regarding the inability of a single country to face the enemy reaction alone, and the theory of the lack of a secure base. All these points were raised and expounded in the newspapers; Fatah published dozens of books on it and seminars were held. This was not an attempt to evade the issue but rather to make the parties, especially those advocating pan-Arabism, bear their responsibilities seriously. This led to many problems and contradictions that persist to this day. We should not forget that the Fatah Movement came into being when there was an Arab leadership that dominated the Arab scene, that of Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir. This was not an easy period from the Palestinian revolution's standpoint of mobilization, from the viewpoint of its ambition to be part of an Arab revolution, or in terms of relationships and their mechanisms. Clandestine activities had begun. I believe Damascus was a base, which we can say contributed to various positive aspects despite all the contradictions existing then.

Al-Tadamun: You later broke away from the Fatah Movement and you and Naji 'Allush tread a different path. Can you tell us why you did so?

Abu Nidal: In fact neither I nor my comrades broke away from the Fatah Movement. Rather we were expelled by an arbitrary and fascist decision. In Arabic, fascism here means "absolute rule;" it is not an insult as some believe. We have researched this translation in dictionaries for years and added it to the Arabic language. There was a conflict between two policies; one came into sharp focus in Amman after 4 November 1968, when there was a clash over authority, the authority of the Jordanian regime. This line expressed itself strongly through the second institution from the executive point of view, and the first institution from a legislative standpoint. [as published] This was in the absence of the conference, that is, the Revolutionary Council. The theory behind this policy was correct to a certain extent. Then came the September experiment [the clash with the Jordanian forces] and its results. This line had been able to embody the principles and ideas of the movement. This policy was expressed by the third conference, which was held in the suburbs of Damascus and adopted dozens of nationalist revolutionary resolutions. It continued to be expressed later. However, the Central Committee later acted contrary to those resolutions. There was more than one group that tried to raise questions and make demands on the basis of its legitimate organizational rights, but they were suppressed. From their [not further specified] point of view, they had to be suppressed so others would learn not to demand their rights, which the organizational statute grants them. Then they carefully went about setting up a court of justice that met in Damascus and passed a death sentence on Abu Nidal and some of my colleagues. This was in addition to other sentences. I do not know how I will serve the 380-year jail term I received. I do not know how I can live long enough to allow their judgment against me to be carried out.

Al-Tadamun: Was this sentence passed before you carried out any of your individual actions, and what were the justifications and reasons for this sentence? Were there any political charges against you?

Abu Nidal: Yes, this sentence was passed before I engaged in any individual action. It was based on strange accusations which all in all were fabricated. One of the charges, for example, was of attempting to blow up the holy Ka'bah. This is in addition to charges of attempting to assassinate a number of Central Committee members, sabotage, demolition, armed mutiny, and so on.

Al-Tadamun: Were all these accusations false?

Abu Nidal: I believe it has now become clear these charges were not true. As to how the conflict then developed into an armed clash, that is cause for regret, as the first victim was one of the most prominent men loyal to our people. He was a close friend of Brother Faruq Qaddumi and a man who helped serve his people and nation. I am referring to martyr 'Abd al-Ghafur, who was assassinated in Beirut, in the Strand Hotel on Al-Hamra Street. He was responsible for financial control in the Fatah Movement. This martyr paid with his life for his position. This was the beginning.

Al-Tadamun: Do you mean they were the ones to start things and not you?

Abu Nidal: I am not making accusations. There is a difference between making accusations and speaking the truth. I do not make accusations.

Al-Tadamun: Later you differed with other comrades who, like you, were expelled from the movement. This includes Naji 'Allush. What was the cause of the disagreement?

Abu Nidal: Naji and others did not come out with us and were not expelled with us. Rather we had organizational ties with them later. We and the Central Committee stand on the same organizational base. So why did we later distinguish ourselves by calling ourselves the Fatah Revolutionary Council? Well, it is an expression of an organizational status while we call them the Central Committee. We never said they are not Fatah and they are not the historical leaders of Fatah. In no way do we deny their rights in this area. There was a conflict and so we forged and created a new beginning that included Naji 'Allush and others. Naji 'Allush then split from us or in fact, you might say, staged a coup against himself when I was physically absent. He staged his coup while I was heading for an operating room thousands of miles away.

Al-Tadamun: You carried out operations and liquidations in Europe that seemed unjustifiable from the struggle standpoint, from the standpoint of the future of the Palestinian cause, or from the standpoint of their benefit to the cause. Do you not regret some of the murders you ordered or the sentences you passed against some people?

Abu Nidal: First of all I did not pass any sentences. I am a member of an organization which subjective and objective conditions — to which all the internal and external hostile factors contributed — put me at the head of despite myself. This is despite the fact that I did not seek this position. I am not sorry for participating in any decision made. Why? As an organization we did not carry out any liquidations for organizational reasons or because of ideological or political differences. In fact what we have done has been against those who have stretched out their hand to the Zionist enemy, something that is banned by the Palestinian national convention, the principles of the Fatah Movement, and its statute. It is also prohibited by our nation's tradition in struggle since Imam 'Ali (in Khaybar) was defeated and paid the price for his loss. He is still paying the price to this moment because, by implication and moral thought, [as published] the Omayyads ostensibly supported Imam 'Ali, but merely to seize Khaybar and occupy it. Exploiting his preoccupation with other things, they plundered the treasury, for Khaybar was the bourse, as Zurich in Switzerland is today. Therefore the conflict with Zionism is not solely over a part of the northern region [bilad al-Sham] but one between two wills and cultures, between a nation that has tended toward a clear humanitarian development, which is the Arab nation, and between little bands of peoples striving to control this world and making claims we can clearly see through. Therefore, we cannot say liquidation or execution was a departure from any democratic principles. This is despite the fact that we advised and warned them in advance. With regard to other matters, we did make mistakes. We say it is no shame to make mistakes, but only to repeat them.

Al-Tadamun: At one stage you carried out numerous operations. You — you in particular — lead a life of absolute secrecy. A secret life always distances the politician from the masses, the inspiration of whose desires and spirit are needed in any revolutionary action. Through such inspiration he can modify his thinking and methods. It was perhaps because of this secrecy that your relations with the masses were weak to a great extent. In such circumstances sentences passed against people would, to say the least, be gravely unjust. They are far from being inspired by the people's hopes and spirit. They would be sentences lacking much data and incriminating evidence. Therefore, we ask you: Who gave you the right to condemn, to appoint yourself a judge? Is it the silencer of a gun that silences the people?

Abu Nidal: You could paint a very gloomy picture of this organization. It is easy to say Abu Nidal or the organization have appointed themselves investigators, judges, a sword, or a silencer. As for relations with the masses, these come in many forms. It is not necessary for them to be demagogic or ostentatious. We must search for useful and sincere relations with the masses rather than rush to hold rallies as they got us and the masses accustomed to. In the past there were always wedding celebrations to no avail. There used to be hullabaloo and emotional manifestations. I would say I am closer to the cadres than to the leaders, closer to the masses I live with.

Al-Tadamun: How do you live with the masses?

Abu Nidal: I could be the only one that lives his life with the masses without them knowing me. I can say I go to the camps, eat with the people, and engage them in discussions without them knowing my identity. It was this relationship with the masses with all its human involvements that obliged me to continue with this revolution. Without such a relationship I would not have done so because it would be of no use. Here I must stress the need to concentrate on this relationship. This is because we have been called an elitist [nukhbawi] organization. This certainly is not true. Our elitism is represented in the secret administrations that know how to achieve the organization's goals. Comrade 'Atif

Abu Bakr (who represented Abu Nidal in the dialogue with Fatah, the mother organization, before the convocation of the PNC in Algiers) is not an elitist. He lives a normal life with the people. We are adept at creating channels in all aspects of life. Otherwise, how can we understand the organization's role in defending life [reference to the camps war] in the past 6 months? Are we magicians? Do we have an invisible divine power? Have invisible soldiers come to fight with us and defend our people? No. It was the loud clamoring and misunderstanding that has been a surprise to everyone. [as published] There is no mass organization — in the sense of true, correct, and disciplined relations respecting the masses and rejecting any harm to them — like the organization to which I have the honor to belong.

Al-Tadamun: But who gave you the right to be the sword or the silencer? How did you give yourself this right? Is the logic of revolution as you understand it?

Abu Nidal: We feel extremely wronged when we are judged on the basis of the mechanism [propaganda campaign] to which we referred at the start. The coming years will clarify the reality of the situation. Killing or sentencing people to death was not easy for us. But we feel very sorry when a traitor emerges from our people or nation. Do you think we were happy that 'Isam al-Sartawi was what he was? He wanted to open the gates of Acre to the new crusaders. No... we are absolutely unhappy about our people's leadership following such a trend or such a course. We are very proud of our history and consider Ahmad al-Shuqayri to be a sincere struggler. We want Saladin to be embodied in all our leaderships from the ocean to the Gulf. But such wishes cannot be realized by our dreams.

Al-Tadamun: Did you give the order to assassinate Al-Sadat?

Abu Nidal: The word assassinate nauseates me.

Al-Tadamun: Let us ask: Did you contemplate murdering him or executing him?

Abu Nidal: Any one of a million Arabs would have wished to be the one to carry out a just sentence against Al-Sadat. We as an organization have many links with many forces, especially in Egypt. This is no secret. We as an organization tried on our own and we have worked with our brothers and friends. We still do so, and this will continue.

Al-Tadamun: Because we publish in Europe and live there we feel the operations you carried out have left great bitterness among the European people. I suppose this people would like to hear something from you now. You took your battle to Europe and many of the European people fell victim, even though some of them sympathized with us and supported our causes. How do you justify moving your battle to Europe, and why did you not concentrate on the occupied territories?

Abu Nidal: In fact neither Abu Nidal nor anybody else wished to become engaged in any kind of conflict in Europe. We knew that European public opinion is important for our cause. On the basis of our analysis of imperialist-U.S. development and its inclination toward absolute domination of Europe we always sought to urge those with whom we had ties in the European administrations to be independent of the United States. But it was the Zionists and their organs who initiated the battle against our people and particularly against many of the sons of our nation in Europe. We would recall here their assassination of many of our revolution's sons who were residing in Europe legally and under official European protection. We had no intention of offending the European public or its governments. The great leader De Gaulle was the first to be aware of this. He was the first to welcome the first unofficial representative of the Palestinian revolution in almost all Europe. Later he became an official representative. He was Brother Muhammad Abu Mayzar (Abu Hatim). The Zionist machine succeeded in convincing the world that it was the Palestinians who first launched this wrong behavior. I cannot recall the names of all those who fell in Europe as a result of the Zionist enemy's bullets, but, as an example, one may mention Mahmud al-Hamshari, Wa'il Zu'aytir, Boudiya, Basil al-Kubaysi, Sami Abu al-Khayr, Fadl al-'Anani, and Majid Abu Sharar.

Al-Tadamun: But the operations you carried in Europe did not seem to us to be in retaliation for the Israeli Mossad's liquidation of a number of Palestinian strugglers. In fact, yours were assassinations carried out inside the Palestinian revolution. Can you tell us which operations were in response to Mossad activities?

Abu Nidal: I do not think it would be useful to go back to this point because many things have now changed. There is a wider and better European understanding of the dangers of Zionist activities, and we hope the coming months and years will see a still greater understanding.

Al-Tadamun: It has now become known that you participated in the dialogues that lead to the convocation of the 18th PNC. Certain other organizations participated on a large scale. The mere fact that you participated in the dialogue and your meeting with the PLO leaders signify a great change in your policy. What does this change mean to you and how do you justify it? Does this mean you have abandoned your earlier method of action and you will enter a stage of political struggle within the framework proposed by the PLO? In other words, can it be said you have abandoned external operations for good? Have you abandoned liquidations?

Abu Nidal: With regard to participation, I would say the Tripoli agreement came into being in view of the sincere efforts and activities carried out by the brothers in Algeria and Libya. The agreement recognizes that Palestinian dialogue has become paralyzed and regards the Algiers PNC as a unification council. Since there are no disagreements among most of the organizations over fundamental principles, the dialogue was therefore one between the PLO Executive Committee chairman and the other organizations. This was the result that came out of the dialogue (the festival) that took place. [as published] With regard to external operations, the question for us is not one of carrying out external operations for their own sake or for publicity. If the Zionist Mossad abroad refrains from carrying out operations against Palestinian strugglers or national cadres, then the Palestinian revolution will do the same. More specifically I would say if the Israelis do not carry out operations in Europe we will do the same.

Al-Tadamun: Are you satisfied with the political results of the Algiers PNC, and what is your strategy after this council?

Abu Nidal: We are greatly apprehensive after this festival because of the dangers facing our people and revolution. We hope we are only imagining these dangers. During those dialogues we worked to change the dominant mentality, that is, the mentality of the administration — the absolute rule in the PLO. However, most regrettably, we do not feel any of this has been achieved. We sense grave dangers, which we hope exist only in our minds.

Al-Tadamun: At the start of the interview you referred to the PLO's leaders. You asked: Who gave the other reason to criticize? The question I now put to you is this: Who gave who reason to criticize? You or them?

Abu Nidal: I leave this to observers, analysts, and our people.

Al-Tadamun: You also said in the interview that "we encourage those with whom we have links in the European establishment to disengage themselves from the Zionist enemy and sympathize with our cause." Did your organization have links or ties with some European governments or members of the European establishment?

Abu Nidal: Yes, we did and still do.

Al-Tadamun: A few days ago there was much talk about "an international conference to solve the Palestinian problem." There is so much optimistic talk about this conference that we get the impression it will be held tomorrow. An international conference as commonly understood means negotiations and the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza. Everything you have said today runs counter to the idea of an international conference. You see the Arab-Israeli conflict is one of life and not borders. What do you think of a conference convened to deal with the question of borders while the rest of Palestine will remain occupied?

Abu Nidal: Some 14 years ago it was strongly suggested that the settlement train was rolling and we had to catch the last car. It is still moving, but we do not know where to. We did not see any of them riding in one of the cars. Thus, they have gotten our people and nation all concerned about the settlement train. As such, they are responsible for all the damage done to our revolution and people. The international conference is a big illusion, as its calculations are based on changing international factors. It discounts all the objective and subjective considerations of our people's capabilities. They will go on deluding themselves and we will have to wait 20 years to see what they will do. I do not think any of us or any of our rulers has the right to concede a single inch of Arab land, be it in Palestine or any other Arab country.

Al-Tadamun: If we were to adopt the principle of give and take, and if international conditions tomorrow were to become conducive to an international conference with international guarantees that would give over part of Palestine for the establishment of a Palestinian state, and if you, as a Palestinian leader, were invited to attend such a gathering, what would your attitude be? What would you think of the Palestinian leaders who would take part even if you refused to do so?

Abu Nidal: This is one stage of the contemporary Zionist crusade. This phase of the crusade is governed by changing and alternating conflict. Hence, we cannot give in to illusions by saying what our attitude would be. It is clear that neither the Zionist entity, the Zionist movement, nor the Zionist administration will hand over a single inch of Palestine to those deluded ones. Therefore, why should we indulge in delusions, delude our people, and take up their time with things that would distract them preparedness, readiness, and willingness to offer guarantees in this direction for their cause. [sentence as published] We understood the strategic parity with the enemy that was proposed as a form of preparation for the coming stage. Now, 40 years after successive waves of emigration, nothing has materialized. We hope this emigration will not last for 100 years. If our nation can defeat the Zionist entity in 100 years' time this would be a cultural and human triumph that would rejuvenate our history.

Al-Tadamun: What is you opinion of the inter-Palestinian fighting that has taken place and is still going on today?

Abu Nidal: I oppose this infighting. We have stood and continue to stand against it. This attitude will never change. No Palestinian from any organization will be hurt by us in any way. In fact, we will provide him with every form of protection regardless of political and ideological differences. This is definitely our position.

Al-Tadamun: Where would you draw the line here?

Abu Nidal: Our line is that we reject a Palestinian civil war except when it is a just war against an unjust one.

Al-Tadamun: Could you expand on that?

Abu Nidal: In other words, when there is a land owned by a people we will not seek civil war, but if there are forces working against our domestic and national interest, that is a different matter.

Al-Tadamun: Even if these forces were Palestinian?

Abu Nidal: Yes, even if they were Palestinian. But at this stage the matter is quite different. A civil war is a war incited by an iniquitous power, which is imperialism. The response to this war is a just war, which is a necessity. As for our organization, it is biased in favor of our people and will not commit the crime of waging war against it.

Al-Tadamun: If you disagree with Palestinian leaders over the nature of a solution, will your organization not resort to assassination if these leaders make decisions?

Abu Nidal: No, it will not.

Al-Tadamun: Why did you take part in the camps war?

Abu Nidal: We did not participate in that conflict. Rather, we fought in self-defense. No one asked us to participate. We are the sons of this people, who are being annihilated. It is our duty to defend them. We had no alternatives; we had only one choice,

which is our people. We still do not understand why the camps are being besieged and why our people are being annihilated.

Al-Tadamun: Did you not discuss the siege of the camps with Syrian officials?

Abu Nidal: They know our views, analyses, and estimations.

Al-Tadamun: Why was the equation not reversed after the revolution was launched in Jordan? That is, why is the revolution's principal weight not inside the occupied territories and its reserves outside?

Abu Nidal: This was one of the fundamental causes of our dispute with the Fatah Central Committee. Hence, it is responsible for that. The Central Committee believed that having a secure and revolutionary base east of Jordan meant getting involved in problems of sewerage and other minor matters. Thus, we have lost that base.

Al-Tadamun: As a revolutionary council, what is your post-PNC strategy as far as the occupied territory and waging the struggle inside it are concerned?

Abu Nidal: Our strategy is that of the Palestine national liberation movement, Fatah, with all its objectives and resources.

Al-Tadamun: You said you have a "sensitive ear that picks up things." What does it pick up? Music, for example?

Abu Nidal: Everything. Yes, music.

Al-Tadamun: What music do you hear?

Abu Nidal: I hear a voice singing: the land, the homeland, and the village.

Al-Tadamun: You mean Fayruz?

Abu Nidal: Fayruz is more than just a voice. Fayruz embodies an idea which man is compelled to live up to; one feels she expresses the feelings of this great homeland. I feel others do not care for that. But I can say Fayruz is the number one political commissar in our life right now.

Al-Tadamun: What about people other than Fayruz?

Abu Nidal: They are all voices singing the national song.

Al-Tadamun: How do you bring up your children, what do you talk to them about, and do they know the truth about you? Do they know that you lead a secret life, that you are hunted, and that thousands of individuals and countries want your head?

Abu Nidal: I have three children; the oldest is 23 and the youngest is 8.

Al-Tadamun: Do they know Abu Nidal well?

Abu Nidal: They have known every detail of my private life since they were small. The state of persecution has developed a sharp sense in them, which could be fear of the unknown.

Al-Tadamun: What do you talk to your children about?

Abu Nidal: I always encourage them to live the pre-1948 years and to observe the negative side of our lives — Arabs and not just Palestinians. From this point of view, my family could be leading a difficult life in that they see me only rarely. This is tragic.

Al-Tadamun: With your secret life, do you not miss living a normal life like everyone else, being able to go to the coffee shop to drink coffee or pay a normal visit to a friend without bodyguards or fear? What do you miss?

Abu Nidal: I do not feel I am missing anything, as most of my comrades try to make up for what I miss. Sometimes I live a normal life; I go to the movies or the theater and walk in the streets.

Al-Tadamun: What was the latest film — not a video — you saw?

Abu Nidal: "The Return of a Citizen" with Mahmud Yasin, which was shown in an Arab country.

Al-Tadamun: Do you not feel that some of your operations in Europe brought many tragedies to the Palestinian revolution and led to a loss of European support for the revolution? Moreover, the attempt to assassinate the Israeli ambassador in London was used as pretext for the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Abu Nidal: The Israeli ambassador in London was no ambassador. He was a Mossad officer with the rank of ambassador. And because there is a secret conflict between us and Mossad, the use of this incident as a pretext is unconvincing. This was confirmed by all political and military leaders and social scientists, because the situation that dictated the invasion was a Zionist-imperialist one. This was evident in the subsequent presence of the multinational force. We certainly did not seek to create a justification for the enemy, and neither was the Zionist enemy looking for a justification to commit aggression. I do not think the attempt to kill an officer is sufficient excuse to invade Lebanon with two-thirds of the Zionist army. Hence the conflict takes place in accordance with regional and international calculations.

Al-Tadamun: Are you a Marxist?

Abu Nidal: I am an Arab nationalist benefitting from Marxism.

Al-Tadamun: Do you believe the Soviets are strategic allies?

Abu Nidal: The Soviet Union is a friend hostile to imperialism, as are we. The term strategic alliance in its common use is incorrect, but we must search for and precisely examine the laws that serve any strategic alliance. [passage omitted]

Al-Tadamun: There is a new stage in the Palestinian struggle and it is said you are now more moderate. Did you review your strategy or did your movement become more inclined toward politicization?

Abu Nidal: One must always review. As for politicization, we are already a politicized organization, but our policy in fighting Zionism comes from the barrel of a gun. I believe those who wager on changes occurring in our stands are imagining things. This is the will of a nation and not of individuals. If Abu Nidal one day decided to sign something on behalf of the Palestinians nothing would actually change. There is a real conflict between accepting the Zionist entity and rejecting it.

Al-Tadamun: Did you read Guevara?

Abu Nidal: Yes.

Al-Tadamun: Regis Debray?

Abu Nidal: Very much.

Al-Tadamun: Did you study the movement of guerillas in Latin America? What is your opinion of the theory of revolutionary focus?

Abu Nidal: I believe the experiment has shown that those people were gamblers. Yet it is difficult to judge a phenonmenon except withing the prevailing geographical, economic, social and economic context. But the Tupamaros proved to be gamblers and so lost their cause.

Al-Tadamun: There are names that cause terror among the Europeans such as Carlos and the Bader Meinhof. What is your impression of Carlos?

Abu Nidal: I have never met him and will never meet him.

Al-Tadamun: Why?

Abu Nidal: For several reasons.

Al-Tadamun: How did you manage to appear in the camps recently?

Abu Nidal: Conditions dictated that we do so. It was not our plan to make an appearance on such a scale, but when the camps war came it compelled the organization to make an appearance because the responsibility was no longer simply to carry a gun and fight. The organization became concerned about ensuring the livelihood of those under siege. Previously we were not called upon by the masses to provide such necessities, but the situation today has changed a great deal. This is a sign of the sincerety of our stand and the clarity of our line.

We had been preparing for building and training as well as fighting. The camps tragedy has forced us to make an appearance. To some of the ignorant this was a surprise, but had they known the nature of this organization and its structure they would not have been surprised.

Al-Tadamun: Our final question to you is: You have been accused of carrying out operations on behalf of certain governments against Palestinians or other regimes. How true it this?

Abu Nidal: We remain accused until proven guilty. Thank you.

INTRA-GULF AFFAIRS

Indian Tanker Hit By Iranian Missiles in Gulf

BK111628 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] An Indian tanker bound for Kuwait was today hit by missiles fired from an Iranian patrol boat in the southern Gulf. There are no reports of casualties, but the missiles sparked off a fire on board. The 60,000-ton tanker of the Shipping Corporation of India, named *Dr B.R. Ambedkar*, was hit four times early this morning. It suffered four holes — two in the hull and two in the engine room. A press release issued by the corporation in Bombay today said all the 62 officers and crew of the vessel are safe and the tanker is now on its way to Dubayy after carrying out temporary repairs. It was sailing to Kuwait to load crude oil for Madras and Haldia refineries.

Gulf Papers Assess Murphy's Tour, Israeli Policy

JN111825 Manama WAKH in English 1510 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Manama, May 11 (GNA) — Bahraini newspaper *Akhbar al-Khalij* expressed hope that Murphy's current tour of the Arab Gulf countries will lead to an American move to end the Gulf war.

The paper added that there [is] no difference between Murphy's current tour and his previous visits. The paper expressed hope that the U.S. official tour will achieve something.

Commenting today on the current Gulf tour of the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near East [and South Asian] affairs Richard Murphy of the Arab Gulf states, Qatari newspaper *Al-'Arab* underlined statement by Murphy in which he reportedly said the United States was not enthusiastic for the idea of the international conference, preferring, instead direct negotiations.

"This American position is the same one which that Israel keeps declaring and pursuing in secret and non-secret contacts with the Arab and other international parties," the paper said.

Al-Khalij al-Yawm expressed hopes that the current tour of the American envoy will achieve progress towards ending the Iraq-Iran war, maintaining that Murphy's tour gives the impression that new door of hope has been opened for international endeavours and good offices on that direction.

Kuwaiti daily *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm* Monday said that the current differences in Israel are over methods, and not goals, as it is now obvious that Israel fights peace, and seeks to control all Palestinian lands.

In a front page editorial, the paper said that such differences in Israel started since the formation of the coalition government three years ago.

The paper added that both Likud and Labour parties agree on the strategy, although they differ on methods and tactics.

"The two parties agree on three negatives including not to pull out from all occupied Arab territories, no to an independent Palestinian state, and no to withdrawal from Jerusalem."

Al-Ra'y al-'Amm noted that Israel, which claims it is working for peace, by all means, is destroying just peace sought for by international bodies.

In conclusion, the paper said that Labour Party leader Shim'on Peres, and Likud leader Yitzhaq Shamir consider the West Bank occupied since 1967, as "Samaria" and "Judea", [and] their joint aim is to empty it from the Arab people by all means.

Commenting on the U.S. policy's credibility, Saudi newspaper *Al-Nadwah* said the U.S. envoy Richard Murphy, who is currently touring Gulf states, will try to re-build the U.S. credibility after it failed as a result of exposure of the Iran-gate weapons scandal.

It added that difficult times now facing the Middle East provided excellent opportunity to prove the objectivity of the United States. "A peaceful settlement of the Middle East cause will be the test of the U.S. credibility," the daily said.

KUWAIT

Dailies Criticizes U.S. Middle East Policy

LD121027 Kuwait KUNA in English 0912 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] Kuwait, May 12 (KUNA) — Two local dailies Tuesday, commented on U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Mideast Affairs Richard Murphy's visit to the region. One attacked the U.S. while the other questioned results of the tour.

Daily *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm* in a front page editorial drew the attention of the United States that "it cannot cheat us, as usual," and told Murphy that "we are approaching a great change, and the Gulf region has started the first step towards getting away from the sphere of U.S. interests."

The paper stressed that "we do not trust the U.S. any more especially after the U.S.-Iran scandal, and will go to the Soviet Union, although we know they have interests, but we also have interests to preserve."

"All Arabs, despite disliking communism, will swing towards the Soviet Union, any (?other) power that supports us and works sincerely to bring the Gulf war to an end, and to restore our rights in Palestine, as well as any other occupied territories," *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm* emphasized.

Meanwhile, the English language daily *Kuwait Times* questioned the outcome of Murphy's current tour of the region and said "lets hope that he is wiser than he was on his previous sojourns in these parts."

The daily, in an editorial, while recalling what U.S. President Ronald Reagan told the Arab League delegation that "he and his government" strongly supported a negotiated agreement,

believed that this must be a very recent 'change' as far as he and the U.S. Government may be concerned.

"However, if Washington has seen the light now, the event renders some optimism in order, although one must wait and look for some concrete evidence to support hope for a turn for the better," it added.

The newspaper pointed out that the problems confronting the Middle East can be many, two stand out, the Palestine question and the Iran-Iraq war.

The paper underlined that this conflict could have been brought to some kind of an end if the Reagan administration had not tried to be "short-sighted and selfish."

"What we have felt all along, and the whole world now fully agrees with, is that one party to the conflict has consented to cooperate with all peace making efforts made so far, and the other has not," *Kuwait Times* went on.

The daily wondered about reasons behind the change in the U.S. stance, particularly to the idea of an international Mideast peace conference and asked "What is the real extent of this conversion?"

Therefore, the paper asserted, if the U.S. really intends to regain trust, is to be open, straight, remorseful and repentant. [sentence as received]

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM Accuses Iran of 'Hypocrisy'

LD100843 Kuwait KUNA in English 0804 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] Kuwait, May 10 (KUNA) — A Kuwaiti newspaper Sunday lashed out at Iran accusing it of hypocrisy and hinted that the downfall of the Tehran regime was imminent in view of festering economic, political and social problems.

Al-Ra'y al-'Amm, in a front-page editorial, said Iran's numerous problems range from long queues in front of groceries and bakeries to house searches for able-bodied men to send them to the battle front.

Greater was the Tehran regime's fiasco at the war front with Iraq as every new offensive "turns into a catastrophe for the Iranian people," the paper said.

Tehran rulers, according to *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm*, have lost the last figleaf when their cooperation with Israel — Iran's alleged No 1 enemy — was exposed and so were all "lies" about liberation of Jerusalem.

Referring to the covert U.S. arms shipments to Iran in what became to be known as the "Irangate", the paper said even the United States which Tehran rulers used to call the "great satan" has become a friend and an ally to Iran.

The Irangate has compelled the Muslim Iranian nation to contemplate and realize that their rulers were "exploiting" Islam deceiptfully, the paper said.

Citing the Iranian nation's "sacrifices" for Islam throughout history, the paper indicated that Iranians would no longer tolerate the "trickery" of their leaders.

"Patience will not last long...and Iran will return to its natural place...and daylight will be born again on the hills of Tehran," *Al-Ra'y* said.

Bomb Explodes in Travel Agency, One Killed

LD112016 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1950 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Kuwait, 11 May (KUNA) — An Interior Ministry communique reports that a time bomb exploded at 1925 today in the Al-Rashid Travel Agency located on Fahd al-Salim Street.

The communique adds that the office janitor, a Yemeni citizen, was killed in the incident, which damaged the facade of the building and a number of windows in shops across the street. The communique says that authorities at the Interior Ministry have begun the necessary investigations to catch the perpetrators of the outrage.

Interior Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir, accompanied by Ministry Under Secretary General Yusuf Badr al-Khurafi and a number of Ministry officials, inspected the scene of the outrage and saw the extent of the damage caused by the blast.

OMAN

Industry Minister Departs for GCC Trade Meeting

JN111934 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Their excellencies the ministers of trade and industry of the GCC held the eighth session of the trade cooperation committee in Riyadh today. Colonel Salim ibn 'Abdallah al-Ghazali, minister of industry and commerce, led Oman's delegation to the meetings. Before his departure this morning, his excellency told our station that the meetings would focus on numerous topics, among them a standard industrial patent system, joint industrial ventures, and the industrial strategy approved by the GCC heads of state.

His excellency added that the commercial issues to be examined include the ownership of shares and agencies in the GCC states, as well as a number of studies requiring approval before the General Secretariat implements them in the near future.

PDRY

Cairo Radio Details Soviet Military Presence

NC100923 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 10 May 87

[From the "Listeners' Mail" program]

[Text] Listener 'Ala' al-Din Mahmud Fudah from Alexandria has requested that light be shed on the size of the Soviet military presence in the PDRY.

Retired Major General Farid Mutawalli, chief editor of the magazine *Al-Difa'*, answers: The Soviet presence in the PDRY varies according to the circumstances and regional developments. However, there is a semi-permanent presence that can be summarized as follows:

1. Air bases — There are four, or maybe five, air bases. Two are located in Al-'Anad, one on Perim Island, and one on Socotra Island. It is possible that another air base is located in (Ghar 'Ubayd). There are also four early warning system aircraft stationed in an unspecified location. Listening and monitoring equipment and some Soviet (Hel) planes are also found on these bases.

2. Naval bases and ports — A Soviet fleet command headquarters is located in Aden Port. It has a special docking facility for Soviet vessels and houses fuel storage containers. General docks for receiving Soviet ships are found on both Perim and Socotra Islands, and each dock has berthing facilities and a refueling station.

3. Military facilities — On Socotra Island there are air facilities, consisting of a major 3-km runway and two secondary runways, where Soviet (Hel) aircraft are stationed. In addition, the island has electronic reconnaissance systems; surface-to-surface missile batteries, which might be SCUD missiles; air defense batteries; and naval facilities.

The Soviets are given use of both air and naval facilities on Perim Island, and have air defense and electronic reconnaissance systems assembled there.

In Aden Port and at Aden Airport there are also naval and air facilities. From Aden, two planes, which are periodically rotated, carry out monitoring and reconnaissance missions in the areas of the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, and the Arabian Gulf.

There are approximately 10,000 Soviet experts and dependents in the country. The number of the Soviet forces deployed in the areas mentioned above is estimated at approximately 44,000 Soviet troops.

There is a new base in (Ghar 'Ubayd), where Soviet, Cuban, and PDRY forces are stationed.

Al-Attas Opens Supreme People's Council Session

EA112222 Aden ANA In Arabic 1640 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Aden, 11 May (ANA) — The Supreme People's Council began its third session this morning under the chairmanship of Comrade Haydar Abu Bakr al-Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council. In the morning session the council members heard the Presidium's political report presented by the Presidium chairman. He said the session was notable for the fact that it was being held at a time of important developments in the local, Arab, and international arenas, all of which have been reflected in the ongoing developments in our country.

The report covered the activities of the Presidium since the last session, activities which complement those of the earlier period. He said the Presidium and its permanent committees followed the extent of the implementation of the general amnesty decree and the satisfaction it had created amongst the public. It [the amnesty] gave an opportunity to the misguided elements to (?return) to the homeland. The Presidium appealed to those sons of our people who were misled and compelled to leave the country during the 13 January conspiracy to return home, rejoin their families, and contribute to the construction of the new [word indistinct].

The report also referred to the efforts of the Presidium and its permanent committees to develop and strengthen the institutions of the judiciary through necessary measures to improve the work of the [word indistinct], the work of the attorney generals' office and to increase supervision of the application of laws.

With regard to the strengthening of the democratic content of the state authority in our country, the report referred to the fact that the past period witnessed joint visits by members of the Supreme People's Council and local people's councils to all the constituencies in the Republic's governorates on the basis of a joint centralized program. The report stressed that the masses confirmed through their attendance at rallies their adherence to the party line and their readiness to continue the struggle to implement the party programs toward the achievement of the national democratic revolution with its socialist content.

On economic matters, the report noted that this aspect is the object of great interest. It drew attention to the new triumph of our country embodied in the discovery of oil in commercial quantities and good quality. The report said the Presidium is following with interest the necessary measures to estimate the reserves, begin investment, and exploit the discoveries at the earliest possible opportunity with the aim of raising the level of the national economy and improving the material and spiritual life of the people.

The report praised the government's actions in the economic and social fields and saluted the great efforts made by the government in the economic and supply areas linked to the life and stability of the people.

As to working with Yemeni emigres, the report stressed that the Presidium and government are giving attention to their conditions and providing the means for dealing with their problems.

A study is being conducted on the possibility of their participation through the investment of their savings in the implementation of some development projects.

The report reviewed the Presidium's efforts in the matter of the Yemeni national cause and made clear that efforts are concentrated in the past period on holding further contacts and intensive consultations with the brothers in the northern part of the homeland to create the appropriate atmosphere for activating the Yemeni council, the joint ministerial committees, and the health units.

The members asked for the strengthening of the institutions of the judiciary and the raising of their performance by means of national cadres, as well as by reeducating their cadres through internal and external courses [words indistinct], to deepen relations between the deputies and the voters and to take into account the observations and suggestions of the masses and help solve their problems through the specialized services.

The Council expressed its appreciation for the excellent and sophisticated level of performance by the Presidium, the government, and the permanent committees of the Supreme Peoples' Council as well as the mass, creative, and people's control organizations. The Council stressed the need for work that ensures continuing development of state activities both in the internal and external arenas with a view to deepening the popular democratic content of authority and its social function.

The Council approved a draft resolution on the political report presented by the Presidium to this session, including the inserted amendments.

Central Committee Discusses Unity With North

EA082246 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
2245 GMT 7 May 87

[Summary] The YSP Central Committee held its eighth ordinary session under the chairmanship of 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, 5-7 May 1987. A communique issued today said the session was held amid party and mass preparations for the party general conference in June. It said the Central Committee paid great attention to the organizational measures for the convening of the conference.

"The communique also said the eighth session of the YSP Central Committee discussed the annual statistical report for 1986 presented by the party and organizational department of the Central Committee Secretariat, a report on the level of implementation of the budget and party subscriptions for 1986. It studied with deep interest the document of the third 5-year plan for economic and social development for the period 1986-1990, whose indices and objectives were drawn up in light of the positive results achieved during the years of the second 5-year plan 1981-1985 at various levels of the national economy, also taking into consideration the repair of the direct and indirect destruction caused by the 13 January conspiracy.

"It also stressed the need for the Republic's Council of Ministers and General Federation of Trade Unions to draw up detailed practical plans and programs for implementing the indices [mu'ashirat] of the production plan, developing the system of production initiatives and competition, and mobilizing the masses of the workers to implement them promptly in various sectors of work and production.

"It also emphasized the appraisal of the level of implementation of the Central Committee's decisions issued on employment and wages and the employment of the population with a view to dealing appropriately with problems arising out of the imbalance between expectations from human resources and the level of employment.

"The communique also pointed out that the Central Committee examined the important announcement that high-quality oil has been discovered in commercial quantities. It appreciates the efforts of Yemeni and Soviet experts and workers to explore and extract the oil. It reiterated that this national resource will be directed toward building and developing the material base of the national economy and raising the standard of living of the toiling masses of our people.

"Reviewing all the measures taken to eliminate all traces of the 13 January bloody abortive conspiracy, the Central Committee emphasized the need to continue joint efforts with the brothers in the northern part of the homeland to create all the necessary conditions and opportunities for the return of the people misled by the conspiracy to the southern part of the homeland so they can live peacefully among their families, contribute to redeveloping the country and exercise all the duties and rights guaranteed them as citizens under the Constitution and the valid laws of the Republic.

"The Central Committee also praised the joint efforts of our party and revolutionary government together with the brothers in the northern part of the homeland with a view to restoring the unity of the Yemeni homeland by peaceful and democratic means.

"The Central Committee also examined the extensive external activities of our party since the last session of the Central Committee. It affirmed that the extensive external activities of our party's leadership reflect the firm foreign policy course of our party and regime, which is based on internationalist solidarity, peaceful coexistence between different social systems, and respect for national sovereignty. They also express our resolve to cement the relations of friendship and cooperation with the socialist countries led by the Soviet Union, the loyal friend of our people; the Arab people; and all the people struggling for liberation, progress, and world peace. They express our resolve to cement the bonds of friendship with countries of the national liberation movement and reflect our people's tireless efforts to achieve Arab solidarity in the struggle against imperialism and Zionism, to defend the supreme pan-Arab interests of the Arab nation."

Al-Bid Meets With Armed Forces Political Figures

EA102049 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 10 May 87

[Excerpt] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, has emphasized the important role played by the Armed Forces Political Department. He did so by pointing out that the spirit of discipline and responsibility were positive factors, helping to develop party and political action in the Armed Forces. During his meeting with the director and members of the Armed Forces Political Department this morning, the brother secretary general explained the preparations for the party congress, and the results and resolutions of the eighth session of the YSP Central Committee.

During the meeting, the brother secretary general listened to an explanation from brother Lieutenant Colonel Husayn 'Ali Hasan, director of the Armed Forces Political Department, of the department's activity. He emphasized that these meetings expressed the party's attention to the Armed Forces. This session, he said, is of special importance, as it comes in light of successful preparations for the congress and discussion of the critical analytical document. He said the Political Department was a major target for the destructive activity of the opportunist right: Despite this heated activity, it expressed the aspirations of the democratic party activists in the Armed Forces. The political quarters played a large role in confronting the opportunist right and various destructive regimes.

The Political Department director stressed that the department was and still is the leading center for political and party action, through which the Central Committee directs political and party activity in the Armed Forces. He stressed that the department would see to the successful implementation of the Central Committee's directives for preparing the general party congress. [passage omitted]

PFLP Envoy Conveys Habash Message to Al-Bid

EA110952 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
2245 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, had a meeting in his office yesterday evening with Brother Shihab Yunis, representative of the PFLP in Aden. During the meeting, Brother Shihab Yunis conveyed a verbal message to the brother secretary general from his brother George Habash, secretary general of the PFLP, on the latest Palestinian developments. Brother Shihab Yunis gave Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid a detailed report on the results of the recent 18th meeting of the National Council in Algiers.

CPSU Central Committee Secretariat Official Arrives

EA082229 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
2245 GMT 8 May 87

[Text] Comrade Gryadunov, head of the Middle Eastern Section of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee Secretariat arrived in Aden tonight at the start of a visit to our country at the invitation of the YSP Central Committee. The trip will last several days. He was welcomed by Brother 'Abd al-Jalil Ghaylan, deputy secretary of the Central Committee, and a number of officials in the Secretariat.

Minister Views Defense Cooperation With Bulgaria

EA102054 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] This afternoon, Brother Colonel Salim 'Ubayd Ahmad, candidate member of the Political Bureau and defense minister, met in his office with Comrade Zdravko Velev, ambassador of the People's Republic of Bulgaria in Aden. During the session, they discussed defense cooperation between the two friendly states, cooperation between the two friendly armies, and the exchange of military expertise. The brother defense minister stressed to the comrade ambassador our country's enthusiasm for developing collaboration between the armies of the two fraternal states in a manner that strengthens the defensive capacities of the Yemeni and Bulgarian peoples, safeguards their gains, and protects world peace.

QATAR

AL-RAYAH Comments on Murphy's Mideast Tour

JN081728 Manama WAKH in English 1545 GMT 8 May 87

[Text] Manama, May 8 (GNA) — Qatari Arabic daily *Al-Rayah* has affirmed that the U.S. Administration is much more required than before to exert intensive efforts to settle the causes of the region with the utmost neutrality possible.

Commenting on the current tour of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Middle East Affairs Richard Murphy, which started yesterday, *Al-Rayah* said in a front page editorial published today that the entire American attitude towards the causes of the region should be modified and re-tackled especially after it has become very clear for the whole world the absence of the U.S. credibility.

Murphy's tour in the region is specifically required to answer the many pending Arab queries the most important of which is that for how long the U.S. Administration would keep silent over the brutal air raids the Zionist enemy has been launching almost daily against the Palestinian refugee camps in south Lebanon.

For how long the U.S. Administration would keep silent on such crimes out of its keenness on winning the Jews' votes during the coming U.S. presidential elections of 1988, *Al-Rayah* wondered and asked about the new efforts the United States can exert for halting the almost seven-year-old Iraq-Iran war away from any threats of military intervention in the Gulf waters under the pretext of safeguarding navigation in the Hormuz Strait.

SAUDI ARABIA

King Fahd, PLO's 'Arafat Hold 'Important' Talks

LD111757 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Brother Leader 'Abu Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, has held extensive and important talks with Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

According to a responsible Palestinian source, brother leader Abu 'Ammar informed the Saudi king about the results of the recent 18th PNC session in Algiers.

The source also said that during their discussion, Brother Abu 'Ammar and Saudi King Fahd examined the latest Palestinian, Arab, and international developments.

'Arafat Leaves for Sanaa

LD120009 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2355 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Jeddah 11 May (SPA) — Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, left Jeddah this evening for Sanaa after a 2-day visit to Saudi Arabia during which he met King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques.

He was seen off at the airport by Mr 'Abd al-'Aziz Jighdar, the director of royal protocol in Jeddah, and a number of other officials.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives; Meets Sa'ud

LD111725 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1618 GMT 11 May 87

[Excerpts] Riyadh (SPA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Riyadh this evening. [passage omitted]

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, met with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah at Riyadh's Palace of Conferences. The two men reviewed questions of mutual interest and bilateral relations.

Conveys Message to King Fahd

LD112148 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2029 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Riyadh, 11 May (SPA) — This evening, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, received in his office at the Royal Court Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti deputy premier and foreign minister, who conveyed to him a message from his brother, Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. The audience was attended by Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard; Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal; and 'Abd al-Rahman al-Bakr, Kuwaiti ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

Concludes Visit; Departs

LD112154 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2116 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Riyadh, 11 May (SPA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Riyadh this evening at the end of a very brief visit. While in Saudi Arabia, he conveyed a message to King Fahd from his brother, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of fraternal Kuwait.

He was seen off at King Khalid International Airport by Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal; Ambassador Isa al-Muwaysir, head of the Protocol Department at the Foreign Ministry; and 'Abd al-Rahman al-Bakr, ambassador of Kuwait to Saudi Arabia.

Minister Discusses King Fahd's Inter-Arab Meetings

LD120054 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2345 GMT 11 May 87

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 11 May (SPA) — This evening, 11 May, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, presided over the session of the Council of Ministers.

After the session, Minister of Information Ali al-Sha'ir made a statement to SPA in which he said:

The custodian of the two holy mosques addressed the Council of Ministers about his successful journey to a number of Arab and European capitals and about the results of his good offices in the fraternal meeting between brothers.

After a brief explanation of all the introductory stages that preceded this meeting, and the contacts made for its sake, the king said: "From the honorable brothers His Majesty King Hasan II and His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, I fould deep understanding of the realities of the Arab nation and issues regarding its destiny, and a commitment to restore peace and harmony to all the Arab countries".

The custodian of the two holy mosques said: I was pleased to find a truly fraternal response, an honorable Arab Islamic response to the solutions and views presented at that meeting for achieving the desired goals. Praise be to God for guiding us to these achievements, and we look forward to more closeness and cooperation for the good of Islamic and Arab nations everywhere.

Minister al-Sha'ir added: On the other hand, the custodian of the two holy mosques told the Council about the results of meetings he held with a number of brothers who visited the kingdom this week.

About his meeting with Mr Yasir 'Arafat, the custodian of the two holy mosques said: Brother Abu 'Ammar briefed me on the results of the PNC meetings and the results of the talks on the Palestinian issues. I stressed to him the permanent, firm Saudi position: to work hard for the return of the Palestinians to their homeland, for the Palestinian right to self-determination, and for the establishment of their state on their land. This is what we have worked and are working for with all we have, to support and

consolidate the cause of the Palestinians out of our conviction of the justness of their cause.

The minister of information added: The custodian of the two holy mosques explained the nature of his meeting this evening, Monday, with his brother, His Highness Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, which comes as part of the existing consultations between the GCC brothers.

Minister Al-Sha'ir added: The Council also reviewed the report presented by Mr Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting minister of planning, about the oil market situation. The Saudi Arabian position is determined by the fact that commitment to the agreement of December 1986, to the quotas allocated to every member during that meeting, to the production ceilings set for each phase, and to the fixed prices, is an extremely vital matter for the continuation of oil market stability and for balancing supply and demand until the end of December 1987. The Council hopes all concerned parties will continue to adhere to this agreement and to consolidate the gains made until now as a direct result of it. [passage omitted]

UAE

New Sea Route to PRC Inaugurated in Dubayy

JN102000 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1750 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] Dubayy, 10 May (WAKH) — A new sea route was inaugurated in the Port of Rashid in Dubayy today, and the Chinese cargo ship *King Kong* arrived here this afternoon in its first voyage via the new route, which links PRC ports to the ports of Karachi, Dubayy, Al-Dammam, and Kuwait in southern Asia.

This is the first sea route linking the PRC with a UAE port. Four Chinese cargo ships will operate on this new sea route at the rate of one trip through the Port of Dubayy every 15 days.

YAR

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Libyan, PDRY Ties

NC111523 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 18 Apr 87 pp 1, 10

[Interview with 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by correspondents Faysal Salman and Ghassan Mukahhal, in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [*Al-Safir*] The announcement of the discovery of commerical quantities of oil in the YAR has changed regional and world views about your country. Is there a connection between this changed view and recent intense political activity by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the YAR Government, particularly in terms of foreign visits and the dispatch of envoys?

[Al-'Iryani] I believe policies based on seasonal or transient events are unwise. The efforts of the president and Foreign Ministry are not seasonal and are unaffected by the discovery of oil. The work of the president and others is not impulsive. Everything is calculated, studied, and in line with the national charter. The oil discovery is important, but it does not change the situation.

[*Al-Safir*] It is clear that since President Salih's visit to Libya, on which you accompanied him, your relations with that country have entered a new and unique pahse. Does this have anything to do with reports about lukewarm relations between the YAR and neighboring Arab countries?

[Al-'Iryani] Why do people believe relations (with Libya) were bad? We have a basically good relationship, and we are seeking to develop such ties with all Arab countries. Our relations are based on full commitment to Arab charters and the Joint Arab Defense Treaty and on achieving solidarity. All YAR efforts fall within this framework. Differences in views are no excuse for changing the level of relations with anyone. Our relations are firm and principled, within the framework of Arab beliefs.

[*Al-Safir*] The only announcement made following President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's visit to Libya was about holding a Yemeni cultural week in Libya. Was this the only result of the visit, or have economic, political, or military agreements been concluded?

[Al-'Iryani] We held a joint session with Libya's General People's Committee, and we concluded important economic agreements. Our relations with Libya have developed greatly. It is no secret that we received 15,000 barrels of oil daily from Libya. Does not this merit a visit to bolster the relationship? As for military agreements,we tell all Arabs that when they feel any external danger they will find the YAR beside them, without need for military agreements.

[*Al-Safir*] Is there then a special military relationship between you and Libya?

[Al-'Iryani] It is natural for us to have special military relationships with Arab countries. This is to be expected. As I said, we are, in fact, committed to the Joint Arab Defense Treaty. This does not need discussion. If you were to ask me, for example, about a new military relationship with the Soviet Union, I could understand this. As for military relations with Arab countries, this goes without saying.

[*Al-Safir*] All right. Are there new military relations with the Soviet Union?

[Al-'Iryani] There may be after President Salih visits Moscow soon.

[*Al-Safir*] Is there any connection between the president's visit to Libya and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's dispatch of an envoy carrying a message to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz?

[Al-'Iryani] Col al-Qadhdhafi has sent envoys to a number of Arab countries. His message to King Fahd did not result from the president's visit to Libya.

[*Al-Safir*] Col al-Qadhdhafi has tried to mediate between the two Yemens. Was this discussed during President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's visit to Libya?

[Al-'Iryani] Al-Qadhdhafi is not seeking to mediate. He wants full unity between Sanaa and Aden. We have no differences on this. There is a political, human, and national problem resulting from the events in Aden [in January 1986]. We are seeking to bring the two parties to the conflict together.

[*Al-Safir*] What is the situation with regard to your relations with the PDRY?

[Al-'Iryani] Our relations with South Yemen are excellent, but emigration from south to north is continuing to this day. The total so far is 85,000, and it could be even more. The Yemeni people in the north bear the burden of this large number of emigrants. Our brothers in the South are not happy with the presence of (former president) 'Ali Nasir Muhammad here, but there is no tension. His presence is not a source of tension on the borders or elsewhere. I want to stress that neither the North nor the South can be separated from the other, whether 'Ali Nasir is present or not.

[*Al-Safir*] Do 'Ali Nasir's training camps affect relations between the two Yemens, particularly as Aden has expressed concern about these camps?

[Al-'Iryani] Why did they not worry about security 15 months ago? Has the presence of these camps really disturbed their security? It was once said 20 individuals had infiltrated into the South. Another time it was said that a booby-trapped car was sent. Does this — even if we believe it to be true — disturb their security? We hope you will explain to them that there are 20,000 fighters with 'Ali Nasir, and they are still committed to a political solution to the problem.

[*Al-Safir*] There have been reports that some oil-producing countries, particularly Saudi Arabia, have halted their aid to the YAR. Is this because of the announcement of the discovery of oil in the YAR?

[Al-'Iryani] The YAR's second 5-year plan is nearing an end. That plan was prepared when I was prime minister. Unfortunately, the level of performance during this plan has been weak. Our estimates were based on Arab and international organizations' assistance, as well as on that from Arab oil-producing countries. But the Arab development contract was cancelled as a result of the Gulf war. We were expecting $150-200 million a year, but the resources of most Arab funds have dwindled as a result of the Gulf war. This, in turn, caused a reduction in our 5-year plan. The decrease in assistance started in 1983 and continues. The issue is greater than it appears. But assistance from international organizations and friendly countries, such as the FRG, the Soviet Union, the Netherlands, the United States, and Britain, has not diminished.

We accept the explanation that the Gulf war has affected our aid. Our 5-year plan was based on projections of $400-600 million a year. The plan would have succeeded had these funds been available.

[*Al-Safir*] Do you see nay connection between the recent [Saudi] military exercises in the Najran area and reports of Saudi-Yemeni tensions? Are repurcussions of the recent border incident over?

[Al-'Iryani] We do not see any connection between the exercises on the Saudi borders and reports of tension. As to the border incident, it and its repurcussions are over.

[*Al-Safir*] President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has recently received (Mikhail Stenko), an envoy of the Soviet leadership, who delivered a message from Mikhail Gorbachev. Sanaa has also recently received a Soviet military delegation. Are these two events related to bilateral ties and regional developments?

[Al-'Iryani] I did not know about the presence of a Soviet military delegation in Sanaa. Our relations with the Soviet Union are excellent. The Soviet envoy's visit is normal and falls within the framework of the good relations between the two countries.

[*Al-Safir*] We have learned that Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil will visit Sanaa in June. What is the purpose of this visit?

[Al-'Iryani] President al-Jumayyil's visit is in the cards. It was proposed long ago, in mid-1986. He was once about to visit Saudi Arabia and then us, but this visit was postponed.

[*Al-Safir*] What is the truth about reports of a discovery of a large quantity of natural gas in the Red Sea?

[Al-'Iryani] A well was dug in the Red Sea, but so far it has not constituted a discovery of natural gas or oil. But signs are positive.

[*Al-Safir*] There are reports about YAR mediation between France and Libya on the Chadian problem. What is your comment on this?

[Al-'Iryani] The Chadian problem is not our immediate concern. But we are enthusiastic about a relationship between Libya and France. We have told France we will support Libya if its security and sovereignty are exposed to danger. We also told (the French) that Libya and Chad are neighbors and France's role should be positive, not negative. As to mediation, I do not believe the YAR is qualified, for a number of reasons, to undertake such mediation.

2 Suspects Arrested in Abu Basha Shooting
NC111545 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Cairo, 11 May (MENA) — MENA has learned that two persons have been arrested on suspicion of shooting former Interior Minister Major General Hasan Abu Basha. However, eyewitnesses will not be asked to identify the suspects until criminal laboratory experts have completed their final report and the details of the case are complete.

Investigation of the crime by the Interior Ministry's Criminal Laboratory, under Maj Gen 'Adil Baha', indicates that the bullets found in the car seized following the shooting were from a Smith and Wesson .38. Comparison of these bullets proves that they were fired from the gun belonging to the former minister's guard.

As for the blood in the car, analysis indicates it is type "O". It was also reported that bullets found at the scene of the incident were 7.62 mm (Russian) and were made in Egypt. One of the bullets was from an automatic machine gun. There were no plastic or other bullets.

Mubarak on 'Arafat Remarks, PLO Dissident Visit
JN091709 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 8 May 87 p 8

[From "News of the Week" feature]

[Text] In an important statement to *Al-Musawwar*, President Mubarak has commented on Yasir 'Arafat's statements in Kuwait. 'Arafat noted that he was an Egyptian at heart, that his stand on Egypt is known to those near and far and is not influenced by a decision here or there, that President Husni Mubarak is a noble nationalist leader who always works for Arab interests, that 'Arafat and all the brothers in the PLO harbor love and appreciation for President Mubarak, and that Cairo has a vital role to play in the Palestinian issue.

The president said: We trust 'Arafat's good judgment and his concern for the Palestinian cause. Our special appreciation of 'Arafat may have been instrumental in limiting Egypt's reaction to events at the Algiers PNC conference to our response to the PNC's demands that relations with Egypt be restricted. At the same time, we allowed a number of Palestinian offices that serve humanitarian purposes, such as the Palestinian Red Crescent, to remain open.

The president said: Egypt's position on the Palestinian cause is firm and clear. Those who try to attach special significance to Abu al-Za'im's ['Atallah Muhammad 'Atallah] visit misunderstand Cairo's position. Cairo's stands on the Palestinian cause are firm, and its views of the PLO have not changed. Moreover, Abu al-Za'im's visit was in response to a previous invitation.

Kuwaiti Envoy Arrives With Message on PLO Ties
NC112144 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Kuwait, 11 May (MENA) — A MENA correspondent in Kuwait has learned that the mission of 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, adviser to the amir of Kuwait who arrived in Cairo today with a message from his highness to President Husni Mubarak, is part of Kuwait's intensive efforts to contain the disagreement between Egypt and the PLO in the wake of the recent PNC session in Algiers.

The mission of 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, wh is accompanied by Ahmad al-Ayyub, director of protocol at the Kuwaiti amir's court, is considered an extension of a similar mission carried out in Cairo last week by Sulayman Majid Shadin, under secretary at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry.

The correspondent has also learned that Kuwait is focusing great attention to this subject, especially now that the PLO Executive Committee is to meet in Tunis on Wednesday. That body will discuss relations with Egypt as an important pillar of support for Arab solidarity.

Received by Mubarak
NC120913 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0848 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] Cairo, 12 May (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met today with 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, adviser to the amir of Kuwait. The amir's adviser arrived in Cairo yesterday for a visit to Egypt expected to last several days.

Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister for cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development, and 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Kandari, head of the Kuwaiti Interests Section in Cairo, were also present.

Al-'Arabi Leaves for Tabah Tribunal Meeting
NC110803 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0710 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Cairo, 11 May (MENA) — Dr Nabil al-'Arabi, director of the Foreign Ministry's Legal Department, left Cairo for Geneva today to attend the first session of the Tabah international arbitration tribunal due to begin on Wednesday [13 May].

During this session Egypt and Israel will put their cases to the arbitration tribunal. The submissions are in the form of memoranda outlining the views of each party.

The tribunal will hold a second session in mid-October to hear the summation of both sides.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry has completed the memoranda, defense arguments, and summation which will be submitted to the arbitration tribunal — using documents, maps, supporting evidence, and various facts that prove Egypt's right to Tabah.

IBRD To Grant Loans Worth $534 Million
JN091817 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 7 May 87 p 1

[By Jalal Rashid]

[Text] The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has agreed to give Egypt four new loans worth $534 million. An official of the Planning and International Cooper-

ation Ministry said the loans will go the following banks: Egypt Bank, Egypt-Iran Bank, the Industrial Bank, the Export Development Bank, and the National Development Bank.

The official noted that the loans will be made available to exporters, small and medium industries, and the building and construction sectors. The terms for granting the loans are being drafted jointly by the Ministry of Planning and the banks, and cover such matters as the rate of interest, the exchange rate, grace periods, and repayment.

African States Encourage Halt of Debt Repayment

PM061337 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 30 Apr 87 p 1

[Report by 'Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar: "African Attempts To Persuade Egypt To Stop Payment of Debts"]

[Text] *Al-Wafd* has learned that some African countries are trying to persuade Egypt to adopt the idea of calling on African debtor countries to stop paying installments of and interest on debts owed to creditor states, which total $75 billion. *Al-Wafd* has also learned that this proposal was discussed in the corridors at the African minisummit. During his meeting 2 weeks ago with U.S. Ambassador to Cairo Frank Wisner, Prime Minister Sidqi threatened to suspend Egypt's payment of interest and debts due this year. The prime minister requested that the U.S. ambassador ask his government to show a more flexible attitude to Egypt's demands for reducing interest on military debts due this year from 14 to 7 percent, with a 3-year grace period. Over the last 15 months Egypt has actually ceased paying installments on debts owed to some European countries. Two months ago Sudan's attorney general, 'Abd al-Mahmud al-Haj, declared all the loans Sudan obtained under former President Ja'far Numayri as legally void, starting from their guarantees and extending right up to the method of their implementation. The Sudanese Government has also refused to pay $10 million to the French company that built Juba Airport.

Natural Gas Discovered in Western Desert

JN102017 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 9 May 87 p 1

[Text] It has been decided to begin the exploitation of the largest natural gas discovery in the western desert with a production capacity of 150 million cubic feet per day. The company that discovered the deposit will build a 270-km pipeline from the Badr al-Din 3 field, which was discovered, to Al-'Amiriyah. The field's reserves are estimated at 1,000 billion cubic feet and will meet the country's needs for 20 years. The company will dig three new wells to promote the field.

Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil has referred the agreement concluded with Royal Dutch Shell, which discovered the field, to the State Council to prepare a legal document as a prelude to its presentation to the Council of Ministers. This is the first agreement to be concluded during the negotiations held between the Egyptian oil authority and international corporations to search for and produce natural gas, employing the production sharing system similar to that applied to crude oil companies.

The agreement provides for allowing the foreign partner to obtain its share either in the form of crude oil or in cash on the basis of a set price for the gas equal to the world diesel price, along with a 15 percent discount on natural gas and a 5 percent discount on liquid gas (butane) with the aim of contributing to the financing of the pipelines from the fields to the consumption sites.

Tariq Hajji, the company's deputy manager, told *Al-Ahram* correspondent 'Adil Ibrahim that the Egyptian oil authority will market 90 percent of the gas locally through the national network of gas pipelines and that the authority agreed to purchase the company's gas share in cash, which equals 10 percent of production. He added that this agreement comes as part of the oil sector's new policy designed to stimulate the search for gas as well as their extraction. It also seeks to encourage foreign firms, since all discoveries of currently productive gas fields came by accident — at Abu al- Gharadiq in the western desert, at Abu Madi in the delta, at Abu Qir in Alexandria, and at Badr al-Din 3 in the western desert.

Saddam Husayn Receives Murphy, Reagan Message

JN111023 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Baghdad, 11 May (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from U.S. President Ronald Reagan. It deals with relations between Iraq and the United States and the efforts being made at the UN Security Council to end the Iraq-Iran war in accordance with international law and with the goal of achieving a just and comprehensive peace. Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, delivered the note to the president during a meeting today.

The discussion during the session, which was also attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, the president's secretary, and the U.S. ambassador in Baghdad, focused on the regional situation.

Oil Company, Ministry Merge; 3 Bodies Abolished

JN111546 Baghdad INA in English 1402 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Baghdad, May 11, (INA) — The Iraqi National Oil Company INOC has been merged with the Oil Ministry, while three oil and gas organizations were abolished.

The abolished organizations are the state establishment for oil processing, the state establishment for oil products distibution, and the state establishment for gas.

Announcing the move, Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi said it was taken in accordance with President Saddam Husayn's directives to step-up production in various activities and fields.

Under the new decisions, two state establishments for northern and southern oil and the state organization for oil projects have been converted into companies.

The abolishment also included the state establishment for oil training, while a new company for oil exploration was set up to replace the state establishment for oil and gas exploration.

A new company for oil equipment was also set up to replace the state establishment for the manufacturing of oil equipment as part of a plan to develop the domestic manufacturing of oil equipment and to lessen the dependence on foreign markets.

Mr 'Abd al-Rahim also announced the setting up of a state company for transporting oil and gas products inside and outside Iraq.

Army Reports Bombardment of Iranian Positions

JN111757 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 May 87

[Communique No 2,671 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 11 May 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Iraq's zealous sons continue to defend their soil and their people's dignity, inflicting further losses each day on the tyrannical Zionist racists. They have confirmed that this misled group is incapable of achieving its evil intentions in the face of the heroic steadfastness of our brave Armed Forces.

The following is a roundup of our victorious units' activities for last night and today:

1. Through effective blows with artillery, mortars, and other weapons, our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah struck several enemy troop concentrations before them. They also pounded 25 vehicles of various types, inflicting human losses on the scoundrel aggressors. A number of vehicles were destroyed on top of the following confirmed losses: the destruction of a 106-mm gun, the incineration of a launcher, the destruction of a shovel [preceding word in English], the demolition of seven ammunition dumps, and the destruction of four infantry positions.

2. A courageous force from one of our units in the I Army Corps northern sector raided enemy positions before it and, using all its weapons, clashed with the scoundrels. Several enemy soldiers were either killed or wounded and a number of their positions were destroyed. The force returned safely to base.

3. Our courageous artillery crews in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan dealt concentrated blows to selected enemy targets. They also brought enemy vehicles, weapons emplacements, and communications routes under fire. They managed to score direct hits on their targets, inflicting significant losses on the aggressors.

4. Through the work of our brave men in the VII Army Corps sector, several enemy soldiers were killed, five ammunition dumps were blown up, a shovel was destroyed, and enemy positions were set alight.

5. An infantry position was destroyed and a number of enemy soldiers were wounded in the II Army Corps central sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 11 May 1987

Dailies Urge Citizens To Register for Elections

[Editorial Report] The three main Jordanian Arabic dailies carry public appeals in their 11 May editions urging Jordanians to register on the electoral roll. Two of the papers also publish the interior minister's decision to extend registration hours. The registration, which began on 3 May, will continue for 2 weeks. Interior Ministry Under Secretary Ahmad al-'Aqayilah told *Al-Dustur* that "it will not be possible to extend the legal period for registration, which, by law, ends at noon on 17 May."

Al-Ra'y prints an appeal on its last page. It says: "Proceeding from the constitutional provision that the people are the source of authority and to carry this out through the House of Representatives, which is the institution formed by the people through free and democratic elections, and despite the shortcomings of the electoral law, we call upon our brother citizens to place their names on the electoral lists." The appeal is signed by a number of prominent professionals and trade union leaders, as well as members of the House of Representatives. The declaration is reproduced in *Sawt al-Sha'b* and *Al-Dustur*.

Sawt al-Sha'b carries a second appeal on page 23 urging the citizens "to make an extra effort to complete the registration of all qualified voters." It adds: "Twenty years have passed since the last general elections. During this period the country and the Arab homeland have seen grave and momentous events, and the banner of public participation was raised in every part of the Arab homeland. Our country, Jordan, is in the forefront of those Arab states that have preserved their constitutions and elected parliamentary councils. Therefore, Arab and world attention is focused on this new blessed national experiment under the leadership of our brave exalted King Husayn."

Murphy Remarks Call For 'Caution,' 'Suspicion'

JN111112 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
11 May 87 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "Promises for Arabs and Weapons for Iran"]

[Text] The statements made by U.S. envoy Richard Murphy in Baghdad and Abu Dhabi yesterday call for caution and suspicion despite the initial feeling of satisfaction they arouse. This is not because they are ambiguous or open to speculation, but merely because they come from a U.S. official whose government does not enjoy any credibility among the peoples of this region.

Murphy's remarks about his government's determination to end the Gulf war deserve compliment and appreciation. Unfortunately, though, they come from an official whose government has practiced the worst forms of deception against the Arabs by feeding them with statements and promises and yet selling all kinds of weapons, means of destruction, and sophisticated military hardware to Iran.

It is not possible to view Murphy's statements seriously or to consider them a positive step in the American position on the Gulf war, which has been raging for many years. After all, we have heard such promises by several U.S. officials who later turned out to be practicing the art of deception.

It is not only a question of the U.S. stand toward the Gulf war. It goes beyond that to include all issues which concern this part of the world, especially the Palestinian question. The United States is largely responsible for complicating this matter and for pushing Israel toward greater obstinacy, radical stands, and for missing every chance for peace in the Middle East.

While we consider Richard Murphy's statements on the Gulf war a new method of throwing dust in Arab eyes, we truly want to see a practical U.S. stand that reflects such good intentions toward the conflict. This might make the United States reconsider its Middle East policy and adopt a just policy toward the Gulf war and the Palestinian question.

Al-Jumayyil, Ja'ja' Differ on Karami Resignation

NC120608 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0500 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] The current atmosphere in the eastern areas [of Beirut] poignantly demonstrates that both Al-Jumayyil and the Lebanese Forces have adopted conflicting stands on Prime Minister Rashid Karami's resignation. This has placed the eastern areas on the verge of a new conflagration in the past 48 hours. According to our special reports from those areas, this is particularly true of the declaration by Samir Ja'ja' of a general state of alert and his attempt to advance on the Voice of Lebanon premises and the *Al-'Amal* newspaper offices. It should be recalled that *Al-'Amal's* Saturday [9 May] edition failed to appear in view of the ongoing events.

According to the same reports, the meeting chaired by Patriarach Sfayr yesterday evening is a new attempt to curb the dispute. Sfayr called on all sides to avert confrontation and division and safeguard the unity of ranks. Ja'ja', however, insisted that the conferees issue a statement urging the president to accept the government's resignation and form a new government.

Negotiating Delegation Returns From Damascus

NC111649 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] The Lebanese delegation to the Lebanese-Syrian talks returned to Beirut this afternoon, following discussions in Damascus with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The talks were also attended by Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon.

Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni also came back from Damascus this afternoon.

Briefs Al-Jumayyil on Talks

NC111905 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] The presidential negotiating delegation today briefed President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil on the results of their talks with Syrian officials in Damascus yesterday and today.

Sources in the Lebanese delegation described the atmosphere of the talks as cordial and serious. There was a candid discussion of developments following the 10th round of talks. Syrian officials informed the Lebanese team of remarks made to Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an by political leaders in West Beirut regarding some of the points contained in the president's working paper. Some of these comments were positive and some were negative, the sources added, noting that amendments were introduced to certain points in the Lebanese paper.

The delegations have agreed to intensify and speed up contacts before the next round, scheduled for Thursday in Damascus.

PSP's Junblatt on Phalangist-Syrian Relations

NC101328 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 10 May 87

[Speech delivered by PSP leader Walid Junblatt at a rally held in Buq'ata on 10 May to mark the 29th anniversary of the 1958 insurrection against the Sha'mun government — recorded]

[Text] It is wonderful that we should meet today with these progressive nationalist Arab men, the grandchildren of Sultan Basha al-'Atrash and followers of Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir and Kamal Junblatt. [applause]

This is a great day on which we honor the martyrs who fell in 1958 during their fight against foreign alliances, exploitation, corruption, and the sectarian regime. We meet with these heroes today to tell them: You have done well. Your sons in the liberation army, security police, and various places are carrying out their duty of fighting the foreign alliances, feudalism, and exploitation. We tell Al-Jumayyil that nobody cares if he goes to Damascus or not, or if he sends delegations of suspect murderers to Damascus or not. [cheers and applause] Those of us who are here, the grandchildren of Kamal Junblatt and Sultan al-'Atrash, will stay on this land and fight. We will not retreat before dashing to the ground the palaces of exploitation, theft, destruction, and murder; we will not retreat before we wring the necks of the Phalangists headed by Amin al-Jumayyil. [cheers and applause]

Brothers and comrades in Damascus: I tell you it is time we emerged from the whirlpool of settlements. Give us arms, the arms of the party [PSP] and of Bani Ma'ruf [the Druze]. [applause] Give us the arms. This is your duty and it is our right. We fought in the name of Arabism, and we also fought in the name of Palestine. We will stay on this land. They [the Phalangists] are the agents of imperialism, the West, and Israel. It is time the depots are opened, the depots of the party, the weapons of the party, Bani Ma'ruf, Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir, and Kamal Junblatt. [cheers and applause]

This is what I wanted to say today. We know we were a small group of men, both with and without arms, when we triumphed in 1958. We were also a minority during and after the Israeli invasion, but we triumphed because of our faith and Arabism, because of our adherence to this good and pure land, because of the wisdom of our elders, and because of the fact that we attacked and will attack no one. However, we will always remain on this land. Peace be with you. [applause]

Explosion in South Leaves Israeli Casualties

NC120724 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] According to reports from the occupied border strip, an explosion in the Al-Tayyibah triangle last night left an enemy vehicle destroyed and six enemy troops dead or wounded. The same reports add that the enemy towed the ruined vehicle away today. Ten tanks entered the village of Al-Qantarah, which was searched.

Israeli Patrol Boats Fire on Palestinian Camp

NC120840 Paris AFP in English 0833 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, May 12 (AFP) — Two Israeli patrol boats opened fire on the Palestinian refugee camp at Al-Rashidiyah, in southern Lebanon, at dawn on Tuesday, but without causing casualties, eyewitnesses said.

After launching rockets, the two Israeli boats, cruising off the southern port city of Tyre, opened fire for 25 minutes and hit houses on the shore.

Two Israeli Army helicopters carried out a raid on the same camp on April 19, killing one inhabitant and injuring three more.

The Israeli Navy opened fire on the camp on several occasions after it was besieged by Amal Shi'ite militia from September 30.

Bulgarian Delegation Begins Official Visit

NC111648 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] An official Bulgarian delegation began a visit to Lebanon today, meeting with Malik Salam, chairman of the Council for Development and Reconstruction. The delegation will sign a contract granting Lebanon a $25-million long-term loan for development projects.

Briefs

New Publication Issued — The first issue of *Al-Badil al-Islami*, a new fundamentalist publication, appeared in the southern suburb of Beirut on 1 Ramadan, corresponding to 28 April 1987. [Summary]*[Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 7 May 87 p 1 JN]*

Foreign Minister To Visit Iran, Deliver Letter

JN111835 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' will leave Damascus for Tehran with a letter from President al-Asad to Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i.

Official Talks With Lebanese Delegation Continue

New Karami Cabinet Discussed

JN111348 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 May 87

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] The 2d session of the 11th round of official Syrian-Lebanese talks was held at the Syrian Foreign Ministry this morning. Syria was represented by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon. Attending for Lebanon were Elie Salim, Simon Qassis, and Nicola Nasr. This round of talks was still in progress at the time of this report.

The first session was held yesterday evening and was also attended by Faruq al-Shar' and Ghazi Kan'an. It lasted 2 hours. We have learned from sources in the Lebanese delegation that yesterday's session was devoted to an exchange of opinions. Today, the conferees will hold a detailed discussion of all new developments, including the Lebanese Government's resignation and the need to form a new government under Prime Minister Karami.

The presidential delegation is expected to leave Damascus this evening to brief Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil on the results of the 11th round of Syrian-Lebanese talks. [passage omitted]

Talks End; To Resume 14 May

JN111849 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 May 87

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] The 11th round of official Syrian-Lebanese talks concluded this afternoon, and the Lebanese delegation left Damascus for Beirut aboard a military helicopter. They are to convey the results of their discussions to Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil. This round of talks began yesterday evening shortly after the Lebanese delegation's arrival in Damascus. The group included Elie Salim, Simon Qassis, and Nicola Nasr. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with them for 2 hours last night in the presence of Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon. A source in the Lebanese delegation said the session was used to exchange views on proposed plans for political reform.

A second round, which lasted over 5 hours, was held this morning. This meeting was devoted to a review of the 10th round of talks held on 26 March and to the questions, answers, and documents which Brig Gen Ghazi Kan'an received from the other side, and which the Syrians conveyed to the Lebanese delegation today.

The Lebanese source added that the talks will resume on Thursday with the 12th round. This will take place after the presidential delegation returns with replies to what was discussed today. The source stressed that the talks were held in a positive and friendly atmosphere. An informed source has denied that any subject other than political reform was raised. [passage omitted]

Arabs Not Fooled by U.S. Peace Conference Stand

JN101503 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] Damascus, 10 May (SANA) — Under the headline "U.S. Deception," the newspaper *Tishrin* comments today on remarks by the U.S. State Department spokesman. The spokesman asserted that the U.S. Government welcomes any Syrian decision to play a constructive role in the Middle East peace process. The paper writes: Syria does not need a statement by some American official to learn of its role in any settlement of the Middle East problem, as its part is considered axiomatic. Moreover, Syria, with its political, geographic, and military positions and its status as representative of our Arab people's hopes and aspirations, is truly considered the arbiter of war and peace in the Middle East. This fact cannot be belittled by an occasional statement from a U.S., Israeli, or any other official. The newspaper adds: Syria's decision, which the U.S. State Department spokesman noted, has long been known. However, the U.S. Administration has completely ignored it and even rejected it through its constant rejection of the idea of an international conference, and also through its adherence to the Camp David policy and to separate, capitulationist deals.

The paper continues: The true cause for astonishment is the clear change in the Reagan administration's stand on the Arab-Israeli conflict. This change is evident in America's acceptance of the idea of an international conference after having formerly been one of its strongest opponents. Therefore, what has changed? The paper answers: The new point is the Reagan administration's discovery that its policy of separate deals, drafted as it was in the dark, is a failure. It also realizes that the international community is now more convinced and has more of a desire to hold an international conference. Therefore, the Reagan administration has shown a positive attitude toward the international conference to implement its old plans through it. It wants to conclude a series of separate deals under its aegis and, consequently, undermine such a conference from within after failing to prevent its convocation.

Concluding, *Tishrin* declares: The new U.S. game will not fool any Arab, particularly Syria, which will continue to work for a just peace while preparing to meet any eventuality, no matter how difficult they may be.

Inner Cabinet Vetoes Shultz Shuttle Trip

TA120757 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 12 May 87 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] At yesterday's Inner Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Likud ministers rejected a proposal to invite U.S. Secretary of State Geogre Shultz to a shuttle trip in the area. The trip would be aimed at reinforcing the political process and obtaining U.S. guarantees that it would prevent any harm being done to Israel at an international conference.

Peres and Rabin initiated the proposal. The foreign minister said Shultz was ready to come at any moment and he should be invited. Last night Deputy Prime Minister David Levi told *Hadashot*: It would be ridiculous to invite Shultz to make shuttle trips between the Alignment and the Likud. We have to solve the problems between us ourselves. [passage omitted]

Debate Summarized

TA111544 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 May 87

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel]

[Text] There were no surprises in today's Inner Cabinet session. One of the participants said after the meeting that the debate could actually have been held in public as the members of the Inner Cabinet reiterated their well-known positions as have been reported by the media in the last 2 weeks.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres presented his plan for opening negotiations with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in an international conference. Peres pulled, if you like, a little white rabbit out of his hat: a message from U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz that was sent to his office and that of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir last night. The message implies indirect U.S. support for Peres' plan. Shultz writes that great progress has recently been made in the political negotiations and that the opportunity that has been created should be seized. Although we initially had reservations about the notion of a conference, the secretary of state writes, it has now been made certain that the conference will lead to direct negotiations between Israel and its neighbors without any coercion on the part of the conference. Shultz reiterates the U.S. commitment regarding the conditions for a recognition of the PLO and the inclusion of the Soviet Union in the political process.

The ensuing discussion was mostly matter-of-fact. The lion's share of it was devoted to the past, to history, to what was really agreed in the Camp David accords, to what conference Menahem Begin accepted. Some of the participants even went as far back as the disengagement agreements and Golda Meir's tenure.

Minister 'Ezer Weizman, who was at Camp David, told the Likud ministers: Do not talk about direct negotiations; there have never been direct negotiations. Even in Camp David there was a U.S. framework, and Begin at that time agreed that the future of the territories would be subject to discussion and argument.

The most vehement among the Likud ministers was Ari'el Sharon. He argued that Peres' plan would bring Israel back to the 1967 borders and to the climate of terror that prevailed in the country in the first years after its independence. The reaction of the Alignment ministers was: Do not try to intimidate us; we are talking about the opening of negotiations and not about borders and territories.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir did not present his own plan for a peace process, and other proposals meant to bridge the differences were not raised in today's session.

The Inner Cabinet will hold another session on Wednesday. Officials in Peres' office believe that it will then be possible to put the matter to a vote. Following the Inner Cabinet session the foreign minister summoned a consultation with leaders of his party. The Alignment ministers are scheduled to hold a special session tomorrow in anticipation of the Inner Cabinet meeting on Wednesday.

The Alignment's dilemma is based on the following fact: Fifty-nine Knesset members are at present certain to vote in favor of bringing elections forward, but this may not yet be enough.

Release of Shultz Message Draws Criticism

TA120430 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] Officials in the Prime Minister's Office have denounced the release of the message George Shultz relayed to Jerusalem 2 days ago expressing support for an international conference as a preamble to direct negotiations. These officials told our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami that this had been excerpted out of the exchanges conducted between the administration in Washington and the Israeli Government, and that no conclusions whatsoever should be drawn from it.

Shamir Takes 'Resolute' Stand on Conference

TA120748 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] The prime minister has rejected the notion of an international conference in a final and resolute manner, saying he will not agree to any bargaining or compromise formulas on the issue. He called for removing any trace or scrap of the plan from the negotiating table. Mr Shamir said that Mr Peres' proposal lacks any real substance and involves nothing other than the wish to get rid of all of Israel's security assets. In his opinion, Peres' initiative reflects a lust and wish for exclusive rule and an ambition to get rid of the territories, including the Golan Heights and East Jerusalem. The prime minister argues that Mr Peres' voice is not that of the Labor Party because that is not how Golda Meir and her friends talked, but rather how Peace Now, MAPAM, and the CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] talk.

Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that Mr Shamir was speaking at a meeting of the Likud Knesset faction. He also criticized the leak to the press of Shultz' message, and accused

the Alignment of throwing state rules into the garbage can because of transient partisan and personal interests.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0730 GMT on 11 May in its report on the Likud meeting adds: "In a meeting this morning, the Likud Knesset faction unanimously endorsed a draft resolution in support of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's statement denoucing an international conference. At the suggestion of Knesset Member Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, there was no debate on the issue and the faction members made do with issuing a statement categorically rejecting a conference."]

Firm on Direct Talks

TA110452 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 11 May 87

[Report on interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Yaron Enosh on 11 May; place not given — recorded]

[Excerpt] [Enosh] The reports that arrived yesterday claiming that Jordanian political circles object to direct negotiations with Israel have not discouraged the prime minister. My proposal, Yitzhaq Shamir told me, is the only way to promote the Middle East peace process.

[Shamir] It is not passe, and I do not know whether or not we are heading toward a stalemate. I have said that one must never despair. Both overt and covert action must be taken, and I am sure that with time we will break the stranglehold of rejectionism.

[Enosh] The prime minister terms the situation that has been created in the Cabinet following the initiative raised by Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres an anomaly. Yitzhaq Shamir did not mention the possibility of early elections in view of the Inner Cabinet deliberations, but rather talked about ending the confrontation, which he called "this phenomenon," and returning to a national unity government.

[Shamir] I believe it will be possible to end to this phenomenon if we reach an agreement on reuniting and rallying once again round the government's basic guidelines. This is the mutually-acceptable political plan of the national unity government, devised through the joint agreement of the Likud and the Alignment.

[Enosh] Finally, I asked the prime minister to comment on his remark that Shim'on Peres is prepared to negotiate with the PLO. Yitzhaq Shamir rushed to emphasize: I did not name Shim'on Peres; I said the Alignment is prepared to do so.

[Shamir] I did not mention the vice prime minister; I talked about the Alignment. I said and continue to say that this is the case. I cannot say anything more. [passage omitted]

Sharon Condemns International Conference

TA110938 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 May 87 p A3

[Report by Yitzhaq Dish]

[Text] Ari'el Sharon, Minister of Industry and Trade, has said the presentation of the international conference as an opening is one of the biggest frauds in the political campaigns Israel has faced. The only thing different in this case is that it is a home-made Israeli fraud.

In contrast to recent reports saying he is wavering over what opinion to express on the issue, in an interview with *Ma'ariv* yesterday Minister Ari'el Sharon expressed a firm stand against the international conference.

"I have always opposed an international conference. I support direct peace negotiations as I supported direct peace negotiations with Egypt," Sharon said. He said that the agreement purportedly achieved between Peres and Husayn makes no mention of an opening, but of peace negotiations within a framework that will include the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, as well as the sides involved in the Israeli-Arab dispute.

"It is precisely because I have read the documents and am well informed on the agreements that I oppose the international conference, both on principle and because there is no mention of any opening, umbrella, or corridor to direct negotiations, but of conducting negotiations within the framework of the international conference."

He declared that in this agreement the foreign minister had given up on making the Soviet Union's participation in the conference dependent on opening its gates to Jewish emigration and a renewal of diplomatic relations with Israel. Not only does the agreement Peres made with Jordan not prevent the PLO from being invited to participate in the international conference, the agreement paves the way for the PLO's participation.

Sharon commented that the Soviet Union had been behind most of the wars in the area since the middle of the 1950's, and is providing backing for Arab-PLO terrorism. The other permanent members of the UN Security Council also demand Israel's withdrawal to the 1967 borders, which are fatal borders. One cannot ignore that even the United States, Israel's greatest friend, has never recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Minister Sharon said Israel could propose other plans for direct negotiations which do not necessarily entail such risks.

On early elections, Sharon said: "It would be a great mistake to go for elections right now. Israel is at the peak of the implementation of an economic program, and it needs a period of calm. We must now concentrate on the main issues: economic recovery, security, and the war against increasing terrorism. In his view, there is a link between manifestations of despair and increased terrorism. Terrorism is a monster that smells out weakness. The very fact that Israel is not demanding that Jordan close down the 12 PLO offices on its territory, from which the venomous anti-Israeli propaganda is emerging, proves that security concepts are being entangled in the fraudulent political campaign."

At the same time, Sharon said the Likud has nothing to fear from elections and its position is born of a sense of national responsibility. The campaign is not over a technical matter, such as what type of conference, but over the crucial matter of survival. "After the smoke from the fraud machine now being operated has cleared, it will be possible to convince the Israeli citizens of the grave dangers of the Peres plan."

YEDI'OT AHARONOT: Sharon Key Voice on Talks

TA081250 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT Supplement) in Hebrew 8 May 87 p 2

[Commentary by Yesha'yahu Ben-Porat: "It Is All Up to Arik"]

[Text] Eyebrows will rise and faces will sour on both sides of the political spectrum upon reading the following lines, but this does not prevent us from keeping a straight face and making our position crystal clear:

Arik Sharon need only say the word to turn the situation upside down and change everything. A little word such as yes, perhaps, possibly, or let's try -- whatever the word, it should be one with a positive connotation and one countering the sharp and eternal no coming from the Likud's ranks.

Look, Sharon need only say yes, perhaps, possibly, or let's try, and all at once the government will not disband, elections will not be brought forward, and the enormous effort put into reviving the peace process will not go down the drain.

All this will be held to his credit and most Israelis, including those who have been ostracizing him for years, will congratulate him if only he is brave enough to stand up and object to the absolute no of Shamir and Arens. After all, Arik is a courageous man, and he has been known to contradict Shamir and Arens in the past.

Do you need a quick history lesson? Arens voted against the Camp David accords; Shamir abstained; Arik raised his hand in favor. Only that? No, there is much more: In the midst of the negotiations at Camp David while Menahem Begin was anguishing over whether to sign a peace treaty in exchange for a withdrawal from the Sinai, down to the last piece of land, who did he consult and who did he ask for support if not Arik in a transatlantic phone call to his farm in southern Israel? It may very well be, although this is only an asssumption, that, had Sharon not told Begin "Menahem, I am with you," the latter would have put off signing the agreement.

Here are some more reminders, no less historic. The two-headed national unity government might not have come into being had the official negotiations between the two major parties not been preceded by secret, albeit candid, talks between Shim'on Peres and Arik Sharon at a private residence in Savyon a short time after the elections. There, away from the limelight, an understanding was reached.

What does all this mean?

It means that only rarely, once, twice, or maybe three times in a politician's career, does he come across such a moment of truth when a decisive decision is placed on the conscience of the right man in the right place.

Today, Arik is the right man in the right place, and what happens tomorrow is more up to him than on all other players in the political arena. He is the right man because he is a courageous man who can adopt a brave decision, flying in the face of his opponents; and, the man in the right place because ever since the Herut Party Convention Arik has been basking in such a position of power in his party as to put all his colleagues, from Shamir down, to shame. If Arik says yes, perhaps, possibly, or let's try, he is bound to turn the situation upside down and the Likud leadership, either willingly or forcibly, will have to follow his lead.

But why should he say "yes" or "yes, but" after he already said "no?"

Because suddenly he will be asked to fall in love with a notion that nobody, including Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin, fell for? Because tomorrow he will be asked to declare that an international conference is the dream of the Israeli people? Because here and now he will be asked to believe that it is known a priori that the aforementioned conference will produce peace with Jordan and the Palestinians under terms acceptable to us? Not at all; nobody is making such demands. Even Peres and Rabin would not undertake such commitments. After all, they also have doubts and hesitations and they are also anxious about unpredictable turns. Nevertheless, they say yes.

What Arik is called upon to do is once again give peace a chance as he gave Begin on the eve of the agreement with Al-Sadat. What he is called upon to do is to realize and then pass on the realization to the leaders of his party that it would be a shame to miss such an opportunity, however dim and problematic it may be. Nobody expects Arik to cross the lines, nobody thinks he will come to identify with Peres or Rabin. However, one can expect Arik to discern, as well as they do, what appears to be a flickering light at the end of the tunnel. So why the insistence on painting a grim picture of a trap?

A trap? After all, Arik has first-hand information; he reads the documents and is more familiar with the agreements than the public at large. Therefore, he knows that reference is really to an opening in which the Soviet Union would participate only if it accepts our conditions and without having power to force us to do anything we do not want, and he also knows that this opening would be followed by direct negotiations with Palestinian representatives acceptable to Israel but not with the PLO. Arik also knows that, if the Likud takes part in the process, at the opening of the negotiations the Israeli delegation would propose autonomy in the spirit of the Camp David agreements and that under no circumstances whatsoever would anybody, not even the Labor Party leaders, forsake Israel's security. Arik also knows, from seeing it in black and white, that the United States undertakes to quit the conference together with us if any of the partners breaks the rules.

So what is the fear all about, and where is the trap?

That is, unless somebody — not Arik, to the best of our knowledge — would rather disband the government and throw Israel into an unprecedentedly dirty and disastrous election campaign than take an audacious step which might bring direct negotiations with Husayn closer.

After all, even those who support the political line embraced by Peres and Rabin are in their hearts praying — not all of them would admit as much openly — that the Likud stay in the picture and hold front row center if and when the conference begins and the negotiations are launched. Deep down in their hearts, Peres and Rabin may also be wishing this because, at that point in the negotiations when they have no choice other than say no to Husayn, it would only make it easier for them if somebody like Arik were breathing down their necks.

Finally, it is not clear to us how important this is to Arik himself, but what is clear is that, if only Arik would become convinced and set his mind to making a change, he would overnight become a national hero, strengthen his position at the helm of his party, secure his political future, and remove all the grime that has stuck to him since the war in Lebanon. Even Peace Now would demonstrate for him.

MAPAM, NRP Adopt Resolutions on Conference

TA110833 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 May 87 p 3

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[Text] Last night the MAPAM Central Committee expressed support for the initiative for direct negotiations within the framework of an international conference. The National Religious Party [NRP] decided to support direct negotiations but to oppose the conference in its present format.

The MAPAM Central Committee sharply condemned the Likud leadership, "which is aligning itself with the nationalist hysteria of the Tehiya, Gush Emunim, and Kahane," and stated that any attempt to conduct a political process without the participation of an approved Palestinian representation would fail to solve the problem. "The Labor Party must show courage and adopt the principle of recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination in accordance with the Shemtov-Yariv formula, according to which negotiations will be conducted with any authorized Palestinian element that recognizes Israel and refrains from terrorism."

The NRP political bureau also discussed the issue and found it difficult to reach a united stand in view of the dispute between the extremist bloc, headed by Hanan Porat, Rabbi Druckman, and Prof Avner Sciaki, and the moderate bloc, headed by Dr Yehuda Ben-Me'ir and Avraham Stern.

Finally the NRP expressed support for direct negotiations between Israel and its neighbors but stated that such a meeting would not be held without a prior understanding and agreement on all the conditions and unless it is made clear that the PLO will not participate in such a meeting. "During the formulation of the principles for such a meeting, the movement will stand by its principles regarding the integrity of Eretz Yisra'el and the right to settle anywhere in the country," the decision states.

IDF Radio Summarizes Current Political Situation

TA120752 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 May 87

[Talk in the studio between political correspondent 'Oz Frankel and anchorperson Ilana Dayan — live]

[Text] [Dayan] Are there currently any proposals on the agenda for a compromise between the Likud and the Alignment?

[Frankel] There definitely are proposals. For example, some people in the Likud say: Let us formulate a draft resolution that includes all the public statements made by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in which we will say that the international conference would disperse immediately after convening, that it would merely play a ceremonial role, that under no circumstances whatsoever is the PLO a party to negotiations, and that the negotiations would be exclusively bilateral. It seems that Peres would agree to such a resolution. What is more, he believes the Cabinet could draw up a series of conditions regarding talks with Jordan that would be binding on the Cabinet in the future, and, if these conditions were not met, Israel would quit the talks. However, at the same time he also insists on an endorsement of the text of the document he concluded with Husayn and presented to the Inner Cabinet.

This is the actual crux of the matter. Under no circumstances whatsoever is the Likud prepared to accept the text of this document as it now stands. Peres cannot settle for anything less than the endorsement of the document which, as said, was concluded with the Jordanian monarch. Therefore, it seems that a proposal based on verbal acrobatics will not do the trick this time. As things stand now, the tie remains intact and the most that can be done is to try to water down the resolution.

[Dayan] 'Oz, a new term was thrown last night into the raging whirlwind — a committee of two: Shamir and Peres. Is this in any way different from the usual talks the two men have been holding for the last 2 and 1/2 years?

[Frankel] Both Shamir's and Peres' offices this morning rejected the reports about the establishment of such a committee, saying they were not serious. It seems that if the question is whether Shamir and Peres will meet in order to look for a possible solution after it becomes clear that the Inner Cabinet cannot arrive at an agreement, the answer is apparently affirmative because this is what happened in all previous crises. This should not, however, be labeled a two-man committee.

[Dayan] The key question actually is whether or not there will be a vote in the Inner Cabinet tomorrow.

[Frankel] It is not yet clear whether there will be a vote tomorrow. The Likud and the Alignment will continue their consultations during the day today. Although at the beginning of this week and at the end of last week we said that the Alignment wants to seize the current momentum and reach a decision as soon as possible,

it is unclear whether such a statement applies at the moment. The Alignment has not yet secured a majority in the Knesset for bringing elections forward, and key Alignment figures such as Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin now argue that there is no need to rush into decisions.

[Dayan] So as to make the news more interesting, let us assume that the Inner Cabinet votes tomorrow and it ends in a tie. What happens then?

[Frankel] If the vote in the Inner Cabinet produces a tie, Peres and Shamir will meet. The foreign minister will try to persuade the prime minister to go to elections, but it is highly unlikely that Shamir will comply. Peres will then appeal to the public and to the Knesset. As we said, the current situation in the Knesset is that the Alignment does not have a majority. Peres' associates say that the political situation is fluid and will probably change once the Alignment makes an unambiguous and official decision to bring elections forward. It seems that at least one scenario will not take place: Peres will not quit the national unity government and leave the stage to a narrow-based government led by Shamir. He will stay in the government while trying to shorten its life, and if the current political bargaining in the Knesset fails, the Alignment will nevertheless persist.

Peres-Husayn Meeting, U.S. Reaction Detailed

TA101725 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 May 87 p 2

[Report by Shlomo Naqdimon]

[Text] The talks between Jordan's King Husayn and Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, during which the agreement detailing the principles for Jordan joining the peace process was formulated, lasted 7 hours. During the talk, which was held on 11 April, several drafts were compiled before the final document, which comprises three chapters, was formulated.

When Peres returned to Israel with the document in his pocket, he said in various conversations that the contents are totally compatible with the policy principles acceptable to him and, according to him, also match the unity government's policy.

Peres' first step upon his return from his meeting with the monarch was to convey the contents of the document to U.S. President Reagan and Secretary of State Shultz. Peres' confidants claim that officials in the White House and the State Department were amazed that the agreement was achieved. They were surprised because the Americans had the impression that Husayn was hesitating and was finding it difficult to reach a decision.

As far as is known, a meeting on this matter was held between Reagan and Shultz, during which the two agreed to let the issue be examined despite their past public statements expressing their lack of support for an international conference with Soviet participation.

Was the prime minister surprised by the agreement between Peres and Husayn?

Peres continues to state: I persistently and constantly reported to Shamir on all my political meetings; thus he had no reason to be surprised.

In contrast, following his talk with the vice prime minister, Shamir told his associates: Peres told me that even he did not believe that the meeting with Husayn would end in an agreement.

Is there a contradiction here? It appears so. It seems as though one of the two is not being accurate in his comments.

The big question — the million-dollar question, as the Americans put it — is: What was Husayn promised in exchange for the agreement? What made him change his position after years of refusing to budge?

The Likud believes that Husayn was tempted with large political and territorial compromises. Peres claims: Absolutely false.

If one accepts Peres' version, what, then, caused the change? Here are three possible reasons:

— The Jordanian monarch's fear that the PLO will increase its control of the Palestinians even more, to the point of completely driving Hashemite rule from Judaea and Samaria.

— Husayn's fear for the future of his kingdom, in which most residents are Palestinians. He fears that if a solution on peace is not achieved, the Palestinians in Jordan will try to take over the kingdom, as happened in 1970, and who knows whether Israel will stand by it as it did 17 years ago?

— Husayn's belief that with Shim'on Peres there is a chance to reach an agreement more acceptable — as far as he is concerned — than with any other Israeli leader.

'Atallah Ready To Participate in Direct Talks

JN101800 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 9 May 87 p 1

[Text] London — *Al-Ittihad*: Shim'on Peres received a letter from 'Atallah 'Atallah (Abu al-Za'im), who defected from the Fatah movement, stating his availability to participate in direct peace talks with Israel as a member of a Palestinian delegation approved by the U.S. Administration and Israel, a Palestinian source with close contacts in occupied Jerusalem told *Al-Ittihad* citing the head of the office of the Israeli foreign minister. (Abu al-Za'im) requested that Peres support the opening of offices affiliated with him in the occupied territory because, according to Abu al-Za'im, the move would win his future peace moves public support, said the Zionist official.

Peres Adviser Holds Talks in Switzerland

TA120716 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] Dr Nimrod Novik, the foreign minister's political adviser, conducted secret talks in Switzerland a few days ago. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Dr Novik was on a mission on behalf of the foreign minister and conferred with figures connected with Peres' initiative.

Eban Probe: Pollard Operating During Arens Term

TA081415 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 May 87 pp 1, 6

[Report by Orli Azulay-katz]

[Excerpt] The investigation conducted by the Knesset subcommittee headed by Abba Eban, which is investigating the Pollard affair, indicates that at least 10 meetings were held with Jonathan Pollard in Washington during Moshe Arens' term as defense minister and that documents he had passed on were photocopied then time.

In his testimony before the committee, Minister Arens claimed that, during his term as defense minister, only the preparation for the operation of Pollard was done. However, documents and other evidence shown to the committee proves that Pollard was already been operating during Arens' term.

Arens also told the committee that he knew nothing about the gathering of military intelligence material by the Science Liaison Bureau [SLB]. He maintained that he knew only that the SLB was dealing with the collection of scientific-technological material. Against the background of these statements by Minister Arens, argument arose between him and committee member Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, who contended that Arens also saw material that was not technological. Arens denied this, replying that he did see material but thought it was technological in nature. [passage omitted]

Arens 'Did Not Know'

TA100731 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 May 87 p 1

[Report by Orli Azulay-katz]

[Text] "I did not know about the running of Pollard during my tenure as defense minister," Minister Moshe Arens stated to *Yedi'ot Aharonot*.

Due to a mistake in the wording of a report carried by our newspaper on Friday it may have been inferred that Arens knew, during his tenure as defense minister, about the preparations for the running of Pollard. However, that is not the case, and we are sorry for the incorrect wording.

Nevertheless, the report was checked again. This check shows that although Arens did not know about it, Pollard was being operated as far back as during his tenure as defense minister. Documents and testimony submitted to the Eban Committee recently prove that Pollard was operated during Arens' tenure as defense minister.

Syria, Iran Said To Coordinate Hizballah Action

TA100910 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 10 May 87 p 1

[Report by Britain by 'Uzi Mahanaymi]

[Text] London — In the wake of high-level contacts, Syria and Iran reached an agreement on the issue of Lebanon according to which both countries would cooperate in organizing attacks from southern Lebanon against Israel by the Hizballah group. This follows a prior understanding about the group's activities in Beirut and an agreement that the Syrian Army would not enter the Hizballah's bastions in southern Beirut and elsewhere in Lebanon.

In exchange, Hizballah pledged not to expand its activities beyond the areas where it operates at present, particularly in the vicinity of Beirut.

The Syrians pledged not to use their army to release the hostages held by Hizballah, but will pursue their efforts to attain their release through negotiations. In exchange, Iran promised to suspend all activities aimed at establishing an "Islamic republic in Lebanon" or parts of it. Iran also promised that the Hizballah group would abstain from launching any attacks against the Syrians in Lebanon. Iran will issue a statement recognizing the vital role Syria plays in Lebanon, and the two countries will coordinate their activities against Israel from southern Lebanon.

Belgian Foreign Minister Visits, Comments on PLO

Meets With Peres

TA101415 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] This afternoon, Shim'on Peres told the Belgian foreign minister 'hat according to his plan, direct negotiations without preconditions will be held between Israel and its neighbors with an international opening. Mr Peres added that most of the obstacles on the road to this have been removed.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Belgian Minister Leo Tindemans told Mr Peres that he has noticed increasing readiness to hold a dialogue with Israel in Jordan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. He added that the EC supports an international conference whose participants would not enjoy the right to veto.

Meets With Palestinians

TA110844 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Leo Tindemans, the current chairman of the EEC [Council of Ministers], met last night in East Jerusalem with a group of

important Palestinian figures to hear their views on an international conference. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the idea was welcomed by the participants.

[Begin recording] [Gus] Tindemans told us in the course of the meeting that he came more to listen than to voice his own views. As EEC representative, he is bound by the Brussels resolution on the international conference and is forbidden to go into detail, such as what he would advise the inhabitants of the territories to do: Should they join a Jordanian, Palestinian, or joint delegation? So Tindemans came to listen, as he indeed did, hearing unreserved support for the PLO, as well as support for an international conference with the participation of all the parties and under UN auspices. This, for example, was the statement made by Sa'id Kan'an of Nabulus:

[Kan'an in English] We consider the PLO as our sole and legitimate representative, and we hope that the international conference will take place under the auspices of the United Nations. And we thank the EC, and you personally, Mr Tindemans. And the PLO and the Palestinian people will be represented in this international conference which will lead to the comprehensive just and durable peace in the area.

[Gus] Among the personalities who participated in the meeting were Hikmat al-Masri of Nabulus; Sa'id Kan'an, whom we have just heard; Mustafa al-Natshah, the former Mayor of Hebron; and Dr Hatim Abu Ghazalah of Gaza. Journalists were also present.

The common denominator among these men was their support for the PLO. Conspicuously absent were Hanna Sinyurah on the one hand, and Rashad al-Shawwa and Ilyas Frayj on the other. Perhaps these staunch Jordanian sympathizers did not wish to appear together with PLO supporters, especially in view of Al-Shawwa's recent declarations.

At any rate, Tindemans listened, explained the confusion caused by his meeting with Faruq Qaddumi, and declared: My mission is to bring the positions closer.

[Tindemans in English] When we saw that the idea [of bringing the opposing positions closer] was well received in the world, they sent me to the Middle East in order to see in different countries how the reactions are, what the conditions are, in order to create a possibility to convoke, to organize such a conference; and what we could do to bring the positions closer to each other, as I just said.

[Gus] Tindemans, who came to the meeting with the Palestinians directly from his meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, told the participants about the different views he heard about from Shamir and Peres. Then he heard them out for a long while, promising to convey the gist of what he had heard to his colleagues in the EEC Council, so that they could consolidate their next steps. [end recording]

Holds News Conference

TA111134 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1045 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans says Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt are opposed to a separate PLO representation at an international peace conference. Tindemans, who is currently chairman of the Council of Ministers for the EC, was speaking at a news conference this morning in Jerusalem.

[Begin Tindemans recording] I heard in Amman, in Cairo, even in Riyadh that for them the Palestinians should be represented in a mixed Jordan-Palestinian delegation. That was their idea. I came back with more than the feeling that a direct representation of PLO was not accepted by these. [end recording]

Tindemans also said he does not know of any agreement between Foreign Minister Peres and King Husayn concerning an international conference.

Tindemans leaves Israel later today. During his visit, he discussed the peace conference issue with Prime Minister Shamir, Foreign Minister Peres, and other Israeli leaders.

East African Interministerial Commission Set Up
EA071338 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili
1000 GMT 7 May 87

[Text] Arusha — Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda have set up an interministerial commission to explore new areas of cooperation among the three countries. After a 2-day meeting in Arusha, ministers from the three East African states announced yesterday that a cooperation commission was being established. The commission will seek new means of strengthening collaboration as an alternative to the East African Community, which collapsed 10 years ago. The interministerial commission will also discuss the launching of joint development projects, which will be [word indistinct] by experts from the three states, and advise leaders of the three countries on their implementation.

A joint communique issued at the end of the Arusha meeting, which was chaired by Ndugu Amina Salum Ali, minister of state in the Foreign Ministry, said the ministers had examined the idea of creating the commission.

The idea of setting up this body followed a summit in Nairobi last July among Presidents Ali Hassan Mwinyi, Daniel arap Moi of Kenya, and Yoweri Museveni of Uganda. The idea was then discussed in Nairobi in February at a meeting of ministers from the three states.

The participants in the Arusha meeting also studied future cooperation among Tanziania, Kenya, and Uganda in the fields of economics, research, transportation, and communications.

Ministers Form Regional Fishing Committee
AB091830 Libreville Africa No 1 in French
1230 GMT 8 May 87

[Excerpts] A ministerial meeting ended in Libreville yesterday with the creation of the Regional Committee on Fishing in the Gulf of Guinea. Judging from the resolutions adopted, the session led to a great deal of satisfaction. The participants agreed to set up a small outfit due to the current economic crisis. Thus, the headquarters of the committee will be in Libreville, the capital of Gabon. The secretary general will be a Congolese, assisted by four deputies from the other member-states.

As for its budget, the committee will have 180 million CFA francs to spend this year. Gabon, Congo, and Zaire will make major contributions, while Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome and Principe will contribute 15 percent. [passage omitted]

I would like to remind you that five countries are members of this committee. They are: Gabon, Congo, Zaire, Sao Tome and Principe, and Equatorial Guinea. The five states have already ratified the June 1984 convention on the development of fishing in the Gulf of Guinea.

Cameroon participated in the session as an observer. Congo and Sao Tome were given a mandate to contact Angola, which could take part in the committee's next meeting as an observer. [passage omitted]

ALGERIA

Political Bureau Discusses Sahara, Zhivkov Visit

LD112129 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 11 May 87

[Excerpts] The Political Bureau met today under the chairmanship of the head of state. A communique was issued after the meeting, which was devoted exclusively to the discussion of international political problems. [passage omitted]

Concerning the head of state's visit to Mauritania, the Political Bureau expressed its satisfaction with the harmonious development of Algerian-Mauritanian relations and called for them to be intensified and diversified in the higher interests of stability and security in the Greater Maghreb.

During an examination of the consequences of the construction by Morocco of a new wall on the Mauritanian border, the Political Bureau stresses the concerns of Algiers and Nouakchott as to the danger of escalation which this new factor introduces to the region. The communique this evening repeats the solidarity and support of Algeria for Mauritania.

Concerning the meeting between President Chadli Bendjedid and King Hassan II. the Political Bureau, while expressing its appreciation for the efforts made by King Fahd, expresses satisfaction that this summit provided Algeria with a further opportunity to set out its position on the problem of the Western Sahara.

Recalling this standpoint, the Political Bureau again stresses that it is up to Rabat and the Polisario Front to determine through negotiation the ways and means of achieving a settlement of the conflict. In this connection, the FLN appeals to Morocco to rise to this historical responsibility which is peace, stability, and unity in the Greater Maghreb.

The Political Bureau also examined today the recent meeting of the PNC in Algiers. On this topic, the communique greets the victory of the PLO, which it describes as a responsible contribution to the international peace conference. In conclusion, concerning President Zhivkov's visit to Algiers, the Political Bureau stressed the quality of the relations of friendship and cooperation between Algeria and Bulgaria and the new prospects for deepening them which opened up after his trip.

LIBYA

Army Hands Tibesti Positions to Goukouni Forces

LD111844 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1750 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Tripoli, 11 May (JANA) — JANA has learned that the Libyan Arab Armed Forces have handed over their positions in the Tibesti region to the troops of Goukouni Oueddei as part of the return of the natural alliance between the Libyan Arab and Chadian revolutions.

MAURITANIA

Former Commissioner Extradited From Senegal

AB112225 Paris AFP in French 2112 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Nouakchott, 11 May (AFP) — Captain Moulaye Hachem Ould Hachem, former member of the ruling CMSN in Nouakchott, was extradited to Mauritania last night. This was announced today by his lawyer, Daouda Ba.

Mr Ould Hachem, 39, former commissioner for food security until the December 1984 overthrow of President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydalla, was put aboard a special plane chartered by the Mauritanian Government at 2300 on Sunday, Mr Ba stated. According to a reliable source, a ruling in favor of his extradition was handed down on 7 May by the office of the director of public prosecutions at the Dakar court, and a decree for his extradition was issued by the Senegalese Government on 9 May.

Mr Ould Hachem, who was arrested in January following the the release of an international warrant, is accused by the Nouakchott government of embezzling public funds. He was placed under house arrest at Selibaby in southern Mauritania, but managed to escape to Dakar in December. His lawyer noted that this was the result of the Mauritanian authorities' refusal to allow him to undergo treatment for various illnesses contracted while in detention.

SUDAN

Dinka Chiefs Pledge Cooperation Against Rebels

JN091759 Khartoum SUNA in English 1630 GMT 9 May 87

[Text] Khartoum, May 9 (SUNA) — Dinka tribe's chiefs of Malut-Agair have signed a charter with the Armed Forces stationing in Upper Nile (southern Sudan) on revealing those who are secretly working with rebels leader John Garang and providing the Armed Forces with information about their movements, Commander of the Upper Nile Battalion Col. Bakri 'Umar Khalifah told the daily *Al-Sudani* published today.

He added that his meeting with the Dinka tribe's chiefs had conclusively uprooted the phenomenon of the civilians who work secretly for the interest of the rebels. The colonel said that the Dinka chiefs had pledged to persuade their sons who are forming Mathlum Battalion which is loyal to rebels to abandon violence and resort to peace and stability. About 58 of the Dinka tribe's chiefs had attended the meeting and signed the charter, the daily said.

SPLA Radio Reports Recent Attacks, Successes

EA111743 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 11 May 87

[Excerpts] Twenty enemy soldiers and militias were killed and several others wounded when a combined force of Tingili, Muk-

shashah, and (Tofang) Battalions attacked and destroyed enemy position at Opari about 45 miles from Nimule on 30 April 1987. Correspondent accompanying forces of Tingili, Mukshashah, and (Tofang) says that two buildings, one containing ammunition and another used as a prison, were destroyed and a grinding mill and its generator are also demolished. [passage omitted]

An enemy truck No (?1047) was destroyed when it hit a land mine planted by a combined SPLA force of Tingili, Mukshashah, and (Tofang) Battalions under overall command of Lieutenant Colonel Glario Modi Parinyang between Liria and Okaru, 49 miles from Juba on 2 May 1987. All officers were believed to have perished. [passage omitted]

Thirteen enemy soldiers, including two officers and one militia officer, were killed and several others wounded when SPLA forces of Rad and Rhino Battalions under the overall command of Lieutenant Colonel Kuol Manyang Juk, alternate member of SPLM-SPLA Political Military High Command and zonal commander for central South Sudan, raided Jummayzah enemy position on 13 April 1987. During the raid the SPLA forces destroyed one store full of cloth and foodstuffs. [passage omitted]

TUNISIA

Foreign Minister Mabrouk on Goals of PRC Visit

LD111310 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] On leaving Tunis for Beijing, Tunisian Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk stated that he is visiting China at the head of an Arab delegation in accordance with instructions given him byPresident Habib Bourguiba. The president ordered that activemeasures be taken to end the Iraq-Iran war and bolster Iraq's position for the establishment of peace.

Hedi Mabrouk is leading a delegation consisting of the foreign ministers of Mauritania and Iraq and a representative of Kuwait. After the first leg of his trip, he will pay an official visit to China from 16-19 May at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart.

He said that the visit will enable him to carry out the directives of President Habib Bourguiba on strengthening the ties of friendship between Tunisia and China, a country which is great thanks to its area, population, and its people's determination to raise their land to the level of the great industrialized powers.

Opposition Leader Jailed for Defaming Premier

LD112202 Paris International Service in French
2030 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] We have just learned that Khemais Chammari, deputy chairman of the International Federation of Human Rights and a member of the Political Bureau of the Movement of Socialist Democrats, the legal opposition in Tunisia, who has been detained since 28 April, was today ordered confined by a warrant and locked up in Tunis prison. Kemais Chemari was charged with spreading false information likely to cause public unrest and with damaging the honor of the prime minister.

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Greets Husak on Independence Anniversary

EA112205 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the WPE Central Committee, PMAC chairman, and commander in chief of the revolutionary Armed Forces, sent a message of congratulations today to Comrade Gustav Husak, secretary general of the CPCZ [Czechoslovak Communist Party] and president of the republic, and through him to the CPCZ Central Committee, the people, and the government on the 42d anniversary of the CSSR's independence. In the cable, sent on behalf of the WPE Central Committee, the revolutionary government, the people, and in his own name, our comrade revolutionary leader stated that the heroic anti-fascist independence struggle waged by Czechoslovak patriots, and the victory over fascist aggressors in general, made an important contribution to the ongoing struggle for freedom and democracy.

Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam noted that the useful social and economic goals of socialist construction achieved by the people of Czechoslovakia over numerous victorious years, under the wise leadership of the Communist Party, serves as a fruitful example to countries that have chosen the socialist path of development. He added that we are fully confident that the existing cooperation between the people of the two countries, which is based on their common interests, would be further expanded and strengthened. In addition, he wished Comrade Gustav Husak good health, as well as development and prosperity for the people of Czechoslovakia.

KENYA

Iran's Besharati Talks With President Moi

EA111744 Nairobi KNA in English 1455 GMT 11 May 87

[Excerpt] Nariobi, 11 May (KNA) — President Daniel arap Moi today at State House Nairobi held discussions with the visiting Iranian acting minister for foreign affairs, Mr 'Ali Mohammad Besharati. The discussions centered on ways of strengthening relatons between Kenya and Iran, with special emphasis on trade. President Moi urged Iran to buy more Kenyan commodities and suggested that Iran could take Kenyan tea and coffee which are of high quality.

He noted that the visit by Iranian Foreign Ministry delegation would have a positive impact on relations between the two countries, as it comes soon after an Iranian trade delegation which also held discussions with the president last month. President Moi added that Kenya was strategically placed and had excellent communications and infrastructure that were vital for the development of trade. He emphasized that cooperation should be strengthened in all spheres for the mutual benefit of the two nations. President Moi also noted with satisfaction that Iran had increased its diplomatic representation in Africa and was now paying more attention to the continent.

The acting Iranian foreign minister praised the wise leadership of President Moi which he said had resulted in rapid development in Kenya. He pledged more assistance to the liberation movements until apartheid was dismantled in South Africa. Mr Besharati conveyed to President Moi greetings from President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i of Iran.

President Moi also asked the acting foreign minister to convey greetings from himself and the Kenyan people to the Iranian president. [passage omitted]

Meets Deputy Foreign Minister

EA112117 Nairobi KNA in English 1530 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Nairobi, 11 May (KNA) — The acting Iranian foreign minister, Mr 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, said his country wants to further the courses of peace in the Gulf region, and reiterated Iran's stand on the non-interference with internal affairs of other countries. Mr Besharati was speaking when he paid a courtesy call on the assistant minister for foreign affairs, Mr Ezekiel Mweu, in his office. The Iranian minister said that his country had broken diplomatic ties with South Africa and gave full support to the Frontline States. "Apartheid was the worst phenomenon of the 20th century," he said. Underscoring the need to cultivate peace in all the regions of the world, the visiting foreign minister observed that all human beings were equal before God and ought to live in harmony.

Mr Besharati, who is leading an eight-man delegation on a tour of African countries, assured Kenya of continued good trade relations, adding that Iran will continue to export oil to Kenya and buy Kenya's tea which, he said was popular in Iran. He said Iran supported the Non-aligned Movement and praised Kenya for her firm stand on the issue.

Mr Mweu expressed Kenya's opposition to the frequent massacre of blacks in South Africa, adding that South Africa minority rule should learn from an example set by Kenya that an African government tolerated multi-racial societies. He called on Iran to import more of the Kenya tea world. Mr Mweu was flanked by the head of Middle East desk, Mr M.G. Okeyo.

SOMALIA

Ethiopian Delegation Concludes 1-Day Visit

EA111727 Mogadishu International Service in English 1200 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] The delegation led by the Ethiopian information minister, Dr Feleke Gedle Giorgis, left Mogadishu yesterday evening after winding up a 1-day visit to Somalia. Speaking to Ministry of Information reporters at the airport, the Ethiopian minister stated that he conveyed a written message from the Ethiopian leader, Mengistu Haile Mariam, to the president of the Somali Democratic Republic, General Mohamed Siad Barre. He added that he was highly impressed by the various places he toured and the efforts of the Somali Government toward developing the country. The minister also said that he was pleased with the Somali Government's commitment to the (?implementation of

the) development plan of the country. The Ethiopian minister [words indistinct] for the warm welcome accorded to him and his delegation at all the places he had visited. Seeing off (?his) delegation at the airport were the minister of information of the Somali Democratic Republic, Dr Abdirashid SheikhAhmed; the assistant minister of the ministry, (?Haji) Yasin Ismail; and senior officials of the Ministries for Foreign Affairs and Information and National Guidance.

TANZANIA

Foreign Minister Comments on East Europe Trip

EA101650 Dakar PANA in English 1150 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] Dar es Salaam, 10 May (SHIHATA/PANA) — The socialist countries of Eastern Europe have pledged increased moral and material support for both the Frontline States and the national liberation movements of South Africa [word indistinct]. Briefing newsmen in Dar es Salaam yesterday on his recent tour of Eastern European socialist countries along with his counterparts from the Frontline States, Tanzanian Foreign Minister Bejamin Mkapa said that those countries considered the apartheid regime of South Africa a "source of turmoil" in the region.

"They have accordingly pledged more moral and material support to the Frontline States and the liberation movements," Mkapa said. Without disclosing the form and quantity of material support, Mkapa indicated, however, that the "countries visited had shown interest in contributing to the nonaligned fund of solidarity with the Frontline States."

UGANDA

Talks With DPRK Delegation Open; Officials Speak

EA111723 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Intergovernmental talks between Uganda and North Korea have opened at the International Conference Center in Kampala today. The talks are expected to concentrate on economic and technical cooperation between the two countries. The Ugandan side is headed by the vice chairman of the NRM [National Resistance Movement], Al-Haji Musa Kigongo, and the North Korean side by the vice president, Mr Yi Ching-ok.

Speaking at the opening of the talks, Al-Haji Kigongo said that the visit is a further indication of the shared mutual interest between the two countries. He lamented that while Uganda is endowed with abundant natural resources, her people are still among the poorest in the world, due to the mismanagement of the past regimes. The NRM deputy chief told the visitors that after removing the neocolonial regimes in Uganda, the NRM government has set itself the task of putting the country on a course of development.

He was hopeful that with her experience and technological development, North Korea can play a very important role in assisting Uganda develop. He stated that the government welcomes friends who understand our cause, which is struggle against backwardness and the establishment of an independent, integrated and self-sustaining national economy. He noted specifically that the country needs to develop an internal capacity in the production of spare parts necessary for the rehabilitation of industries.

The North Korean vice president reiterated his government's commitments, the implementation of whatever was agreed upon while President Museveni was in Pyongyang. He said that North Korea is looking forward to assist Uganda achieve development.

Ghanaian Delegation Head Signs Cooperation Accord

EA101846 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] A social, economic, cultural, and political agreement has been signed in Kampala between Uganda and Ghana. It was signed by the foreign minister, Mr Ibrahim Mukiibi, and the head of the country's Institute of Strategic Studies, Colonel (Ewa), who has been leading a seven-man delegation to Uganda. Mr Mukiibi expressed Uganda's commitment to consolidate the fight against apartheid of South Africa and the unity of the African Continent.

On behalf of the Ghanaian Government, Col (Ewa) expressed the hope that whatever had been agreed upon would be implemented. He reiterated that Ghanian leader Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings and President Yoweri Museveni, are part of the new breed of African leaders who cannot let the African Continent down. Later, the Ghanaian delegation was hosted to a cocktail party at the international conference center.

BENIN

Minister Hosts Reception for PRC Delegation

AB110801 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] The minister of finance and economy has given a reception in honor of the Chinese delegation that came to Cotonou to participate in the inauguration of the Lokossa cotton production complex. The ceremony took place yesterday evening at the Benin Sheraton Hotel. On the Beninese side, in addition to Comrade Barnabe Binouzo, were Comrades Guy Landry Hazoume, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; Ibrahim Souradjou, minister delegate at the Presidency in charge of planning and statistics; Beninese cadres; and several invited guests.

The Chinese were represented by the ambassador of the PRC to our country and Mr Ji Guobiao, the deputy Chinese minister of the textile industry.

Comrade Barnabe Binouzo expressed the gratitude of the central authorities to the Chinese leadership for the concrete actions it continues to take in our country. The minister of finance and economy then said he was convinced that the work of cooperation that has been started will continue to be strengthened to the benefit of our two peoples.

Mr Ji Guobiao, the Chinese deputy minister of the textile industry, said he truly sensed the friendship the Beninese party and state felt for the Chinese people. According to the leader of the Chinese delegation, the inauguration of the Lokossa SITEX [Benin Industrial Textiles Company] is a new step toward strengthening the ties of cooperation between China and the People's Republic of Benin.

Commentary Hails Cooperation

AB081044 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 7 May 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Let us first rely on our own strength, our own resources, and on the creative initiatives of the teeming masses in our struggle to free ourselves from foreign domination, to develop our economy, and to endow our people with the dignity and the personality of a free people. This was stated by our great comrade in arms, President Mathieu Kerekou, on 30 November 1972, in his speech announcing the new policy of national independence.

But this clear expression, in the face of history, of the cardinal principle of our democratic people's revolution, far from being an exhortation to autarky, remains an exhortation to our entire working people who are aware that only hard work can liberate them. This is why, in their relentless struggle to build a new society in the People's Republic of Benin [RPB], our militant people have always appreciated all forms of international solidarity and proletarian internationalism. It is, in fact, within this framework that the fruitful, active, and concrete cooperation existing between the PRC and the RPB merits praise. Our valiant people remember and will always remember the various achievements that have marked this cooperation between two countries of the South.

In addition to the imposing L'Amitie Stadium in Cotonou and the Ouidah cigarette and match factory in Manucia, to mention only two structures, another accomplishment has just been added to the list of the various development projects implemented as part of the exemplaray cooperation between Benin and China. It is the Benin industrial textiles company, SITEX, that has been opened in Lokossa. The solemn ceremony, the simple but meaningful speeches made, and the quality and importance of the project are, undoubtedly, a guarantee of the strengthening of bilateral cooperation that is already dynamic but always determined to be further developed for the benefit of the Chinese and Beninese working peoples.

Long live proletarian internationalism, long live international cooperation. Ready for the revolution, the struggle continues!

GAMBIA

Dawda Jawara Sworn in for New Presidential Term

AB112218 Paris AFP in French 1829 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Banjul, 11 May (AFP) — Sir Dawda Jawara was today sworn in as president of the Republic of The Gambia after taking the oath of office during a ceremony in Banjul.

The Gambian president, who was reelected last March, stated in a speech his determination and his commitment to strengthening the system, respecting human rights, and continuing with his economic redress program by putting emphasis on agriculture, transport, telecommunication, education, and health.

On the international scene, President Jawara stated that The Gambia would remain a nonaligned state and supporter of peace and cooperation. It will pursue, in accordance with the spirit of the treaty, the objectives of the Senegambia Confederation.

The Gambian head of state reaffirmed his opposition to the apartheid system in South Africa and exhorted Iran and Iraq to stop fighting and engage in dialogue.

After being sworn in, President Jawara will form his government.

Pardons 24 Coup Plotters

AB112240 Paris AFP in French 2153 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Banjul, 11 May (AFP) — Gambian President Dawda Jawara has pardoned 24 people jailed for participating in the abortive July 1981 coup against his regime, on the occasion of his inauguration as president of the Republic of The Gambia today.

Sir Dawda also received Mamba Guirassy, president of the Economic and Social Council of Senegal, who delivered a mes-

sage from the Senegalese head of state, Abdou Diouf, as well as members of the diplomatic corps accredited to The Gambia.

The president is also expected to form a new government. He was reelected in March.

GHANA

Paper Disparages Attitude of Student Leaders

AB111124 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 11 May 87

[From the press review]

[Text] Writing under the heading, "Dishonest Poison," the *People's Daily Graphic* says the country's university campuses have been focal points of misinformation and distortion. It says the nation presently is having to examine the extent to which the fabric of the revolution has been contaminated by the unprincipled, dishonest poison of little minds in university campuses, which have been turned sour by empty ambition. The paper says when the University of Ghana was closed down last week and certain students dismissed, many were those who thought the action was too harsh, while others who have followed activites of past and present student leaders wondered why the government has been so tolerant for so long. It is about time, according to the *Graphic*, that their tactics were exposed. The paper says last Friday [8 April], the president of NUGS [National Union of Ghanaian Students], Kwaku Pensel, began spreading lies that his father, Asare Pensel, a principal production officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, has been arrested to intimidate him, whereas no government official knows that Asare Pensel was Kwaku Pensal's father. And now that the former NUGS' president has made it known, one can only conclude, like father, like son, when one considers the way Pensel Junior dishonestly and deliberately miinformed students about the outcome of the NUGS meeting with PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] secretaries and led a boycott of one such meeting when he feared that it would be publicized.

Another dismissed student, Bedua Nsan, at a forum last Wednesday at Legon cafeteria, attempted to incite students to unlawful acts. And yet this same student leader has thrown foreign students out of the All-Africa Students Union premises and allowed the place to be used for his family wedding reception. At the same cafeteria, the *Graphic* continues, Arthur Kennedy repeated his 1983 call on the students to kidnap PNDC members, secretaries, their wives and children. The paper maintains that these students so far are merely the junior league, the tools and front men of the real poisoners. They are the pseudo-intellectuals, the superleftists, the pretentious talkers, who have become campus fixtures over the past decade. They include Akoto Ampaw, John Ndebugr, and a former head of the GBC [Ghana Broadcasting Corporation], who took the popular TV program, Osofo Dadzie, off the air, much to the disgust of the public. According to the *Graphic*, they used their high-profile revolutionary talks to confuse cadres and poison their minds. They were the people who provoked Sergeant Alolga Akatapore and others into rash actions, while they remained simply behind the scenes. It was their super-radical cliques which undermined in succesion the INCC [Interim Consultative Committee], the NDC 1 [National Defense Committee], and NDC 2, when they found that events were not fitting into their theories. Their influence misled the PDC's [People's Defense Committees], and WDC's [Workers Defense Committees], and made necessary the painful transition to the CDR's [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution]. The paper says in recent months, these people have been moving around the country, including remote parts in the north, holding midnight meetings with cadres in a bid to break the front of the CDR's. Their aim appears to destroy and not to build. If Ghana cannot go the way of their empty and impractical theories with them at the helm of affairs, then they will pull down everything which has been achieved so far.

In conclusion, the *Graphic* calls for vigilance from all who have sacrificed to achieve our modest gains so far, not to allow room for this dishonest poison to spread.

GUINEA

Radio Warns Youth Against 'Troublemakers'

AB091048 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1945 GMT 7 May 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] The youth are the future of this country. This statement by the president of the republic in April 1984 should not surprise anybody. This statement, which sounded like a mere profession of faith to many nostalgic Guineans, is nonetheless a reality today. To be convinced of this we only have to recall some of the recommendations of the two national conferences on education, which range from the reform and acceditation of programs in universal languages to the improvement of students' living conditions. Thus, the reintroduction of the French language as a means of communication, while awaiting a better structuring of our national languages, has permitted many families to register for, or send their children back to, school.

Who can blame the government of the Second Republic for having reduced the number of agricultural schools, which in fact were only huge dumping grounds for young students who generally came from poor families, while most of the children of former dignitaries attended major foreign universities of their choice? Who can blame the CMRN for sparing the students the unrelated manual labor that our brothers involved in agricultural studies were subjected to? Or the well-known rural-oriented university policy which resulted only in a lamentable waste and even the premature death of several students who could not adjust to the dramatic situations they experienced there? Who can deny the government's efforts to train and further educate teachers and professors, either by sending them abroad or by organizing seminars or training courses? Who can deny the proliferation of junior, high, and primary schools in the subdistricts and even in remote area schools which were often built by citizens who were strongly encouraged by the government's liberalization policy? Did the CMRN not support and finance the building of 500 classrooms in Conakry in order to accept all the children of school age?

Who is more concerned with the fate of teachers than the head of state, General Lansana Conte, who recently, in an address to the nation, decided once again to increase the salary of those who until recently were ironically called militants of honor. There is therefore no need to teach a fish how to swim. What is more, the professors do not need those who pride themselves on sowing confusion in our country, and use [words indistinct]. To successfully carry out their historic duty, which is to train the younger generation, professors and teachers should teach the students properly. In any case, a handful of power-hungry (?troublemakers) have chosen to use these students as their servile tools against the government of the Second Republic. Thus, they claim that the students of the 18th, 19th, and 20th university graduating classes are being thrown out into the streets after their studies. They have thus demonstrated a glaring and total lack of information because we are all aware that all the graduates of the 18th class are now employed, [words indistinct].

According to a communique from the Ministry of National Education, those who wish to teach will find no obstacle in their way. [Words indistinct] the end of the university cycle does not always mean that one is assured of a job. As evidence, unemployment among young people is undoubtedly one of the Third World's most serious problems. Statistical projections show that the number of youths in the developing countries aged 15 to 24 will increase from 755 million in 1987 to 1,117 million in 2025. In Guinea, the situation is not so dramatic because the government has been trying as much as possible to provide employment to youth by recruiting them into the public sector and by facilitating the creation of private companies, which are excellent sources of employment generation.

Who can prove that Guinea currently needs a univerity in each geographical region? However, this is nonetheless the dream of a certain movement. Why, however, in each geographical region? There again, we find some regional inclinations, because the Kankan and Conakry Universities fully meet the country's needs.

How can the CMRN be held responsible for the prostitution of young girls, as is reported? Before the government is accused, it is certainly more logical to make some parents assume their responsibilities. They are the major accomplices in this situation. If it is true that youth represent the future of this country, it is equally true that the troublemakers are attempting in vain to set the students against the authorities, and since youth has praised the CMRN's open-door and freedom policy, they will certainly be the first to destroy the foundations of this movement of dreamers led by apprentice wizards and liars. Certainly no one can let himself be fooled by those who count their chickens before they are hatched.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Official Terms Rumors of Arrests 'Unfounded'

AB111332 Paris AFP in French 1307 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Dakar, 10 May [date as received] (AFP) — Guinea-Bissau's secretary of state for information, Agnello Regalla, today described as "unfounded rumors" the reports that some 20 Army officers were arrested recently on charges of conspiring against Guinea-Bissau's head of state, General Joao Bernardo Vieira. In a telephone interview with AFP, he also indicated that a press release would be published soon.

The arrests of Guinea-Bissau officers were announced last Saturday [9 May] by the Portuguese weekly *Expresso*. The paper stated that those detained included the current minister of defense, Colonel Iafai Camara, and the minister of national security, Col Jose Pereira.

IVORY COAST

President Receives Liberian, Senegalese Officials

AB101221 Abidjan Television Service in French 2000 GMT 8 May 87

[Text] President Houphouet-Boigny granted two audiences yesterday evening. He received a delegation from the Liberian Government and a special emissary of the Senegalese head of state, Abdou Diouf. Ben Zahoui has the details:

[Zahoui] The Liberian delegation arrived in Ivory Coast yesterday. It includes four ministers, namely, Bernard Blamo, minister of foreign affairs; Allison Gray, minister of defense; Patrick Minikon, minister of security; and Jenkins Scott, minister of justice. This senior delegation from the government of President Samuel Doe yesterday morning had a working session with some members of the Ivorian Government which, it must be stressed, has very good relations with the Monrovia authorities. In this connection, it must be said that since his assumption of power on 15 May 1980, President Samuel Doe has greatly supported and promoted the good relations already existing between Ivory Coast and his country. Last March, the Liberian president was in Yamoussoukro to take part personally in the funeral of President Houphouet-Boigny's elder sister. The Liberian delegation's visit to Abidjan, which ended yesterday evening, demonstrates the desire of the two countries to further strengthen the good relations of neighborliness. During this audience, all bilateral issues, as well as the problems facing the African Continent, were discussed:

[Begin Blamo recording in English fading into French translation] The Liberian delegation came to Ivory Coast to convey a special message from President Samuel Kanyon Doe to his elder brother and colleague, President Houphouet-Boigny. As you are aware, relations between Ivory Coast and Liberia are long-standing. Thousands of Liberians reside in this country, and there are also hundreds of Ivorians living in Liberia. There are Liberian students studying at Abidjan University as well as in other Ivorian educational institutions. So, we have come here within the framework of this cooperation. It is our desire to see this cooperation further strengthened.

You pointed out that the audience granted to us by the president was very lengthy. This enabled us to dig deeply into the mine of wisdom of President Houphouet-Boigny and we have learned a lot from his vast and rich experience. [end recording]

After the Liberian delegation, President Houphouet-Boigny granted an audience to the Senegalese minister of defense,

Medoune Fall, who also arrived in Ivory Coast yesterday. The emissary of President Abdou Diouf was accompanied on his mission by General Tavares da Souza, chief of staff of the Senegalese Armed Forces. It is opportune to recall here that President Houphouet-Boigny was in Louga last month, on his return from Nouakchott where he took part in the latest summit of the CEAO [West African Economic Community]. The two personalities certainly discussed issues connected with this organization. Following the audience, the Senegalese minister of defense, Medoune Fall, stressed the good relations between Ivory Coast and Senegal:

[Begin Fall recording] I have just been received by President Houphouet-Boigny. I was sent to him by his brother and friend, President Abdou Diouf. It was a twofold mission. The first aspect — and perhaps the most important — was to come and express to President Houphouet-Boigny President Diouf's felling of grief on the occasion of the mourning in which his family has been plunged. So, President Abdou asked me to tell him that he shares the grief of his family and to convey his sympathy.

The second aspect of my mission is, unfortunately, political. We should also talk about politics a little. You are aware that in recent times, there have been a lot of diplomatic shuttles between the African states. They are exchanging views on current issues connected with the economy, the debt, and (?defense). This is why President Abdou Diouf, as he has always done, has sent me to President Houphouet-Boigny to seek his counsel. [end recording]

LIBERIA

Doe Dissolves Boards of Public Corporations

AB112108 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
2000 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] The president, Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe, has dissolved the boards of directors of all public corporations in the country with immediate effect. An Executive Mansion release issued today and quoted by the *Liberian News Agency* said the public corporations' boards of directors will be reconstituted by the president.

President Doe Gives News Conference 8 May

Makes Opening Statement

AB082108 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
2000 GMT 8 May 87

[Text] At a press conference held in the palace of the Executive Mansion today, President Samuel Kanyon Doe told the Liberian press the most pressing problem facing the nation today is how to attain the recovery of our economy. In his opening statement to the press conference, the president further noted in the new endeavor to find solutions to our political differences, we solicit recommendations and proposals from the public. The reason given for these proposals, President Doe said, were to lead to the attainment of genuine and complete reconciliation among the citizenry. What, however, was shocking to the church and the Christian community was President Doe's decision to exclude the church in these reconciliation processes.

[Begin Doe recording] We have decided not to include the clergy in this initiative at this time because [words indistinct] that one day they preach reconciliation and the next day [words indistinct] and fear. Also, their efforts in the past have not yielded the desired results. It is our hope that this gesture will be received in good faith, as we believe it will represent an important step toward genuine reconciliation in the society.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen of the press, you will recall that on the occasion of my birthday I spoke particularly about the need for officials of government to be honest in performing their duties. At that time, I also referred to a financial scandal involving a member of my cabinet. As soon as this matter is thoroughly investigated and the allegation is proven beyond all doubts, you will be hearing from me. I wish to stress that we are also concerned about the reports of continued malpractices by officials in the employment of other agencies of government. In order to put the records straight and guard against possible rumors, investigations are continuing and as soon as they are complete we shall be making the results known to the public.

It is also our wish that sincere members of the press and committed citizens will continue to speak out fairly, objectively, and (?outwardly) against any government official who engages in corrupt practice or makes use of public office.

Let me once again thank you, distinguished ladies and gentlemen of the press, for responding to my invitation. [end recording]

Questioned by Reporters

AB091930 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
2000 GMT 8 May 87

["Excerpt" of news conference given by President Samuel Kanyon Doe in Monrovia on 8 May — recorded]

[Text] [Ntah] Ellison Ntah. Mr President, you just mentioned that the press will be given the opportunity to begin to write against any government official who will be involved in corruption. I have two questions. One is a question and one is a follow-up to a proposal (?to remind you). One of my proposals will be that it will be better if you begin to meet the [words indistinct] once in a month to discuss before coming up with any policy that your government had discussed [word indistinct] promoting a policy. For example, like the Green Revolution, I think the press should have been involved strongly by giving an assignment to the president of Liberia. My question now is that you have always said that the administration of your government has an open door policy. Why are you hesitating to reveal the name of that minister, seemingly, who has stolen, I will, in fact, say has stolen about $2.5 million at this point in time?

[Doe] Thank you, Allie. I did not want to give the Liberian people false information and so, as I said, I will continue the investigation. Maybe the man who gave me the information is lying or not. And so, sooner or later, you will get the name of the minister

involved. As I said, no one was [words indistinct] and so I want to make sure.

[Reporter] [Name indistinct] from the *Daily Observer* newspaper. I just want to bring something to light. During your 37th birth anniversary, you mentioned that you didn't know why you should reconcile with anybody. And now, you've just said that you are going to begin another phase of the reconciliation process. [Words indistinct] inconsistencies in this statement. [words indistinct]

[Doe] I think if there is any name besides reconciliation in any book I will start using that name but I think [words indistinct]. As I said, I want peace in my country and I think, I believe that includes each and every one of you here present. We want peace, we want unity in our society. And so, as I said, by including fellow citizens across this country.... That does not mean I have defined the meaning of national reconciliation. But I think we will make better contributions than some of the so-called educated people in this country. So I have decided to add them in this so that they can give, whether it's because of the election that people are present or because of the economic situation or what. And so we will present everybody so that they can give an effective answer to this question.

[Reporter] This is a follow-up: Why are you reconciling if you did not really mean what....

[Doe, interrupting] That is why I am saying that I will call the people to come. They are saying reconciliation. I am saying that they must send me proposals, and within that proposal, they will be able to tell me why are we going to reconcile on.

[Reporter] [Name indistinct] from ELCM Community Radio. Mr President, don't you think government's issuance of the deportation order to the Catholic priest, Father Hickey, without the granting of judicial process, has diminished the credibility of this government in the international (?forum). Number two, Dr Doe, is government going to come out with a statement on why Father Hickey was deported?

[Doe] First of all, there is no agreement between the government and Father Hickey. Father Hickey came in this country on his own initiative. And if the government finds out that he is not living in the country according to the laws of this land, I think government has every right to deport any citizen, whether Father Hickey or anybody, once you are not within the scope of our laws.

[Reporter] My first question was [words indistinct] the issuance of the deportation order has diminished the credibility of....

[Doe, interrupting] Every government in this world has the right to deport any citizen. [Words indistinct] in the international laws; any government can deport anybody, any time [words indistinct] until that law is provided, we will continue to deport people who violate our laws.

[Elliot] J.N. Elliot of *New Liberian* newspaper. Mr President, some time last year, you established the (Shaw) Committee that went through the audit and (?probed) some Finance Ministry officials [words indistinct] and you dismissed them. My question is: Why is it that when these officials are found in corruption they are only dismissed, and not handed over to the courts for prosecution?

[Doe] Well, that's a very good question. I think we have to do something about that. And I think (?we owe it to) the citizens of this country. One thing that the Liberian people forget to know: They think when you are president or when you are above a certain group of people, you should take every responsibility. People were charged for corruption at the Ministry of Finance last year and I can remember that some of these [words indistinct] the same people will come back, when somebody is jailed tomorrow, and say: Mr President, my cousin is in jail, my relative is in jail, and at the same time we say we are preaching what we call now reconciliation. You see, we find it difficult. In fact, corruption that we are talking about [passage indistinct].

If you can remember, I went to the chief justice a few days ago and I spoke with the chief justice about my displeasure over the manner in which the cases have developed at the Temple of Justice. And so, as I said, it is you of the press, if you are sincere to the (?truth), provided you are (?speaking the truth). If you (?defame) somebody during a (?report), the person has the right to sue you, too.

[Reporter] [Name indistinct] director of legal relations, Ministry of Information. My question has to with the coming of the American experts to help us with the economy. Some people are of the view that they will, in fact, be like counterpart ministers. Please, tell me their terms of reference. What will they do exactly, when they come?

[Doe] When Mr Shultz came here early this year, I asked the U.S. Government to assist us with technicians that will work with our general ministries to identify some of the areas that we are losing money in. I also told the secretary of state that we will need experts who will be able to discover (?where) certain ministers are not doing the right thing, and also to help government to control expenditures. Also, people talk about the government giving up our sovereignty to the American people. We didn't give our sovereignty to the American people. It is because of what we are talking about today — corruption. We don't know who to trust. And so, the Americans will be able to report to me directly. They are not coming to do our job. They are coming to identifty the areas where we will be able to generate more revenue, or why is it that the revenue continues to go down. How is this possible? These are some of the issues we are discussing now — corruption. People do their own thing the way they feel like. And if — the minister of finance, the minister of planning, and some other ministers — there is somebody assigned from within the 17 men, he will be very careful in signing (?any paycheck). The minister of finance will be very careful in signing vouchers when you know the money is not there to be paid. But they know the money is not there, but still they sign the voucher and look for my approval. [Words indistinct] they know the money is not there, why do they prepare a voucher. So these are some of the (?issues) I'd like to discuss for the 17 Americans to come. But even at that, we still wait for the approval of the national legislature, and of course, I will hope that the legislature will give their support so that the people can come in order to be able to expose what we are talking about today. Corruption is everywhere. As I said, I don't know who to trust.

MALI

SDAR's Hakim Calls on Traore, Comments

AB081025 Bamako Domestic Service in French 2030 GMT 8 May 87

[Text] On the afternoon of 7 May, the president of the republic received the minister of information of the SDAR, Mr Brahim Hakim, who came to deliver a message to General Moussa Traore. SDAR President Mohamed Abdelaziz' envoy briefed the president on the latest developments in the Western Sahara conflict and reaffirmed the determination of the Polisario Front to work for a negotiated settlement between the parties involved, in conformity with OAU resolutions and United Nations proceedings.

Mr Brahim Hakim notably expressed his major concern over the development of the situation, and fears of escalation following the construction of the sixth Moroccan defense wall. The head of state, President Traore, stressed the support of the Malian people, party, and government to just causes, such as the struggle for freedom and independence. It is in the interest of the subregion and Africa to search for negotiated solutions to any dispute and to establish an environment of peace and security that enables brotherly peoples to devote all their energies to development issues, Gen Moussa Traore added.

The talks took place in the presence of the minister of information and telecommunications, Mrs Gakou Fatou Niang; the permanent undersecretary of the president of the republic, Dr Ngolo Traore; the diplomatic adviser, Mr Tidiane Guisse; and the information adviser, Mr Tchana Mate Kone.

Following the audience, Mr Brahim Hakim talked to our reporter, Gahoussou Tiolo.

[Begin recording] [Hakim] I came to deliver a message from President Mohamed Abdelaziz to his brother, President Moussa Traore. This message is about the highly dangerous situation that currently prevails in the northwestern part of Africa, particularly the war in the Sahara, since Morocco decided to build a sixth defense wall on the border between the Sahara and Mauritania.

[Tiolo] Mr Minister, you have just made a proposal to the United Nations concerning the Western Sahara conflict. What are the details of that proposal?

[Hakim] As you are aware, Mr Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, and the OAU chairman have, for more than 2 years, used their good offices to mediate between the parties involved in the Sahara conflict, that is, the Polisario Front and Morocco. These good offices have been continuing, and recently we have had some contacts with Mr Perez de Cuellar, who made a certain number of proposals to us. We gave him our opinions on these proposals, but we have not, as yet, reached any final agreement.

[Hakim] Mr Minister, what about the Oujda summit? Do you think this tripartite summit can bring about some solutions to the Western Sahara conflict?

[Hakim] I would have been in a position to answer your question if the summit had not ended its deliberations 2 days ago. Having said this, I would like to say that the Polisario Front has always [words indistinct] its position on any action that can bring peace to the Sahara. First of all, the two sides in the conflict are the SDAR and Morocco; and then the framework of any solution to this conflict lies in the peace plan contained in Resolution (?75). So this is our position toward any initiatives, wherever they come from.

[Tiolo] Mr Minister, apart from the construction of this Moroccan defense wall, what is the present situation in Western Sahara?

[Hakim] Precisely, as I have said, this sixth defense wall, which King Hassan has erected on the Mauritanian border, can seriously aggravate the situation which, in itself, is very serious because it is a war situation. But the aim of this sixth wall is to bring Mauritania back into the war. That is why we consider it to be very serious.

The situation is becoming more complicated for the soldiers in the field now, especially because of the rigid life [words indistinct]. If you wish to know, since the beginning of the year, more than 200 Moroccan soldiers have been captured by our Army, as well as extremely important heavy weapons. Our soldiers have penetrated the walls that have been erected. Morocco is doing everything to bring Mauritania back into the war. I was sent to the Mauritanian president, to whom I delivered a message from President Mohamed Abdelaziz. I have just delivered another message to President Moussa Traore. You know the role President Moussa Traore personally played in recent years [words indistinct] should be spared in a generalized war, and especially the role he has played for the restoration of peace in (?the subregion); the role he played in the agreement that was concluded between Mauritania and us and on the importance Mauritania attaches to Mali's role in the region. That is why the president decided to immediately dispatch me to Mauritania and then to Mali. From my talks with His Excellency President Moussa Traore, I am happy to say that everybody has great hopes; we have great hopes and the same can be said for Mauritania. [end recording]

USSR Trade Union Delegation Leaves for Home

AB091257 Bamako Domestic Service in French 2030 GMT 8 May 87

[Text] The Central Executive Bureau secretary in charge of relations with the UNTM [National Union of Mali Workers] granted an audience this morning to the Soviet trade union delegation that took part in the celebrations of May Day this year. During the talks with Ferdinand Nagoze Berte, the members of the Soviet delegation expressed satisfaction with their visit to Mali. The Soviets left Bamako this afternoon for Moscow.

NIGERIA

Paper Urges ICJ Ruling on Cameroon Border Issue

AB111240 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 11 May 87

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] *The Patriot* and *The Punch* write on the reported forceful annexing of 16 villages in Ngala Local Government Area of Borno State by Cameroonian gendarmes. [passage omitted] *The Punch* advises the Federal Government to take the issue to the International Court of Justice or to the OAU Arbitration Commission or adopt any other measures it considers appropriate to deal with the situation.

SIERRA LEONE

Vice President Discusses Ties With Iranian Envoy

LD101027 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 10, IRNA — Iranian ambassador to Sierra Leone, Morteza Mahmudi met and talked with that country's vice president Abu Bakar Kamara in Freetown on Friday on the expansion of bilateral relations and the Islamic Republic's readiness in strengthening ties with Third World countries especially those of Africa.

Pointing to the good relations between the two countries, Abu Bakar Kamara asked the Islamic Republic to pay more attention towards this West African country which has seventy percent Muslim population.

Mahmudi in response said that despite the fact that Iran is involved in a secret defense against Saddam, who imposed the war with the instigation of superpowers, it is ready to expand its relations with African countries and help them.

In another development Morteza Mahmudi also met with Sierra Leone parliamentary speaker William Niaka Stephen Conteh Friday and conveyed to him Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message.

Stephen Conteh expressed hope to meet Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani in Iran.

Conteh said that his country is interested in expanding relations with the Islamic Republic and appreciated Iran for understanding Sierra Leone's problems.

The Iranian ambassador responded that one of Iran's aims is to expand its ties with African and other oppressed states and the reason the world arrogance imposed the war on Iran was to hinder it from helping weak countries. But the Islamic Republic of Iran will help its friends according to its best ability, despite all these plots, added Mahmudi.

TOGO

Eyadema Receives Senegalese Defense Minister

AB120702 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 11 May 87

[Excerpt] General Eyadema granted an audience this morning to a Senegalese delegation led by Mr Medoune Fall, the Senegalese defense minister. The delegation also includes Gen Tavarez da Souza, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of Senegal, and the Senegalese ambassador to Togo. At the end of the audience held in the president's office, Mr Medoune Fall stated that his mission fell within the context of bilateral relations and more especially within the framework of periodic consultations between the two heads of state:

[Begin recording] This visit is part of the process of consultation that has always existed between Senegal and Togo, two friendly countries with privileged relations. The two heads of state confer, as do leading officials and all the members of both governments. This is one of the reasons why even if no meetings are held, we must always try to coordinate our activities. There have been a number of diplomatic shuttles in Africa recently. Discussions are being held among friends. A few days ago I was in Abidjan, where I met President Houphouet-Boigny and today I am in Lome, where I have just seen President Eyadema. Our talks once again centered on African problems, the difficulties facing our economy, problems with our raw materials, as well as Africa's social problems. We also discussed defense matters. The problems of defense and security were discussed because, as you know, without defense and security, it is impossible for a state (?or a) government to satisfy the needs of its people. [Words indistinct] again, without defense and security we would be unable to meet our internal and external commitments. In conclusion, I will say that we held lengthy discussions on defense issues. [passage omitted] [end recording]

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Dismisses Two Cabinet Ministers

AU081658 Paris AFP in English 1647 GMT 8 May 87

[Text] Lisbon, May 8 (AFP) — Angolan President Jose Eduardos dos Santos has dismissed two cabinet ministers, accusing them of "negligence" and "lack of zeal," the official Angolan news agency ANGOP said in a report monitored here Friday [8 May].

They are Foreign Trade Minister Ismael Gaspar Martins and Internal Trade Minister Adriano Pereira dos Santos Junior.

Benguela Railway Said To Reopen Within 2 Years

MB091459 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 9 May 87

[From the "For the Record" program]

[Text] The Benguela railroad, an important trade route among three African countries [Angola, Zaire, and Zambia], which links these three states to the world, can be completely rehabilitated within 2 years at the most.

As President Jose Eduardo dos Santos explained during the summit of the three concerned countries and Mozambique approximately a month ago, there are fundamental reasons for us to coordinate our actions and efforts to rehabilitate the Benguela railroad. The Angolan head of state stressed that the People's Republic of Angola is prepared, within the framework of its sovereignty, to take the necessary steps to ensure that the Benguela railroad functions again [words indistinct].

Actually, the Benguela railroad has always worked in one way or another, despite attempts by the enemy to sabotage that important line and spread propaganda to capitalize on the fact it is not in use. The primary objective of actions against the railroad was to weaken the countries that benefit from it and increase their dependency on other countries, especially South Africa, which is served by the armed bandits seeking to destabilize Angola. The two summits, in Luanda on 16 April and in Lusaka on 30 April, decided that Angola, Zaire, and Zambia would make every effort to rehabilitate the Benguela railroad with a budget of $280 million and within a maximum period of 620 days.

The rehabilitation of this very important railroad will (?undoubtedly) permit the region's countries to strengthen their economies and thus will greatly contribute to the speedier elimination of South Africa's apartheid system.

Angola is aware of the Benguela railroad's importance. As President Jose Eduardo dos Santos said, Angola is prepared to take the necessary steps to ensure peace and stability along the Benguela railroad, thus contributing toward the resolution of our people's problems.

Savimbi on Railway Reopening

MB101556 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1554 GMT 10 May 87

[By Mark van der Velden]

[Text] Jamba (Angola), May 10, SAPA — There was a real possibility the Benguela railroad running through war-stricken southern Angola to the port of Lobito might be reopened for non-military goods, according to the rebel Angolan leader of UNITA, Dr Jonas Savimbi.

The MPLA government in Luanda has agreed, under pressure from landlocked Zambia particularly, to UNITA's condition that no military material whatsoever be transported, and the problem now was to reach an agreement to ensure the security of the line and that its terms were not violated by either side.

This emerged from a weekend UNITA central committee meeting at the rebels' Jamba hideout in south-eastern Angola and interviews given by Dr Savimbi to a group of journalists flown in from South Africa.

The leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola said the MPLA government had its back to the wall because if it refused UNITA's offer to allow the line to reopen, states like Zambia and Zaire would have no option but to hold Luanda responsible for their continued economic problems.

Dr Savimbi said that in spite of his offer on the railroad, his army was well prepared for the imminent massive offensive to the south of Angola by MPLA's FAPLA forces, and added that UNITA would "move strongly" in a counter offensive.

"We want to talk peace and reconciliation but we will not put down our guns until we achieve it."

The railroad offer and the coming offensive would be treated by UNITA as two separate issues.

Dr Savimbi also told newsmen he was not "bluffing" anymore with a warning that Western technicians captured in fighting would not be released by UNITA from now on.

Technicians from the United States, which provided vital aid to UNITA last year in the form of Stinger anti-aircraft weapons, were excluded.

Their presence in MPLA territory, particularly at the Gulf-Chevron oil wells in Cabinda Province, was something he was relying on the U.s. Government to resolve quickly.

The UNITA leader also claimed that FAPLA forces, aided by an estimated 45000 Cubans and a strong contingent of Soviet advisors, had introduced chemical and biological weapons to the 12-year-old civil war.

This was first noticed in the middle of last year, but it was impossible to say exactly what type of chemical weapons were being used as scientists in Europe were still analysing samples.

The 2000km Benguela railroad, owned by a British company, starts in Zambia's copper belt before entering Angola for a 1350km stretch to the Atlantic Ocean.

Dr Savimbi claimed UNITA controls between 700-800km of the line in central southern Angola, and regularly sabotages those portions still occupied by FAPLA forces.

"We paralysed the line 11 years ago — there are parts that don't even exist any more — and if the MPLA rejects our offer, we can keep it closed for another 11 years."

The South African Government, which supports UNITA, faces the possibility of complete sanctions from Zambia and Zimbabwe if the line is reopened, as they will then not be dependent on exporting and importing through the republic.

Asked about this, Dr Savimbi conceded the SA Government "was not happy" when it learned of his intention to reopen the line.

He had however "explained" to them how this might mean a breakthrough in the deadlock between UNITA and MPLA, and they had "understood".

Furthermore, he did not expect Zimbabwe and Zambia to be so "foolish" as to impose total sanctions against South Africa.

Dr Savimbi explained he envisaged the declaration of a neutral zone on either side of the railroad to ensure its security. Although there would be of necessity have to be contact between UNITA and FAPLA commanders, a strict condition would have to be the non-involvement of any foreign troops.

Civilians, from Zambia and Zaire, and even from Europe if necessary, should be the ones to monitor goods conveyed on the railroad to ensure no war materials were carried.

Dr Savimbi estimated it would take "more than a year" to have the line operational again once an agreement was concluded.

Savimbi Says Zimbabwe Pilots Given Training

MB101608 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1601 GMT 10 May 87

[By Mark van der Velden]

[Text] Jamba (Angola), May 10, SAPA — Zimbabwean pilots were being trained in Angola to fly sophisticated Soviet MIG 29 jet fighter planes, the leader of the UNITA rebel movement, Dr Jonas Savimbi, said at the weekend.

Speaking at a press conference held at his Jamba base in Southeastern Angola, he said Zimbabwe's denial of recent reports it was going to buy MIG 29's was "nonsense".

The Soviet Union was stockpiling vast quantities of sophisticated weapons in Angola, and Zimbabwe had sent pilots to Luanda to learn how to fly MIG's and familiarise themselves with other Russian weaponry.

"Zimbabwe's claim they are not going to by MIG 29's is nonsense," Dr Savimbi said.

Over 156 UNITA Troops Killed in Jan-Mar Actions

MB111424 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
1200 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] FAPLA, the armed wing of the Angolan people, continues to deal blows to the last hideouts of the UNITA criminal gang which obstinately seeks to destabilize our irreversible march. Clean-up operations have resulted in the complete annihilation of more than 156 UNITA bandits by the national defense and security forces in Benguela Province during the first 3 months of 1987.

The operations, which centered on the (Ganda), Cambambo, Cubal, and Chongoroi municipalities in Benguela Province, resulted in the capture of 3 UNITA bandits as well as a large quantity of war materiel, including 17 light weapons, 2 60-mm mortars, 2 mortar rockets, 32 hand grenades, 3 mines, and hundreds of rounds of Western ammunition of various calibers. As a result of these operations, about 140 people were freed from the enemy's clutches, and 42 [words indistinct] UNITA soldiers who understood the clemency policy voluntarily surrendered to the authorities in order to join the drive for national reconstruction.

MOZAMBIQUE

Political Bureau Issues Statement on Machel Crash

MB111239 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1030 GMT 11 May 87

[Communique issued by Frelimo Party Central Committee Political Bureau in Maputo on 11 May]

[Text] The Frelimo Party Central Committe Political Bureau has once again analyzed the work of the national commission of enquiry. This effort is aimed at learning the truth, the only truth behind the tragic Mbuzini accident which killed President Samora Moises Machel and the other party and government members accompanying him in his mission of peace and cooperation in southern Africa. The investigation was carried out by an international commission of enquiry composed by experts from the People's Republic of Mozambique, the Soviet Union, and the RSA; it was assisted by experts from the International Civic Aviation Organization, ICAO. The tripartite commission issued a factual report on the air crash. Among various aspects of the accident's possible cause was the aircraft's deviation to the right of its flight plan in following a very high frequency omnidirectional radio, VOR. This led the crew to fly the plane to the disaster site.

The People's Republic of Mozambique, in order to get a correct assessment of the accident, asked the RSA to continue the tripartite investigation to learn the accident's true facts. The Soviet delegation also demanded that the tripartite investigation continue. However, the RSA failed to answer these demands, interrupted the tripartite investigations, decided to continue the

investigation alone, and reached conclusions on the accident's causes. These conclusions are contained in a document submitted in due time for evaluation the by the Mozambican side.

The national commission of enquiry analyzed this document and decided that the conclusions presented by the South African board of enquiry are unacceptable. This standpoint was strengthened by evidence collected during the investigations, which implies that the tripartite commission should continue investigating the location and identity of the VOR that caused the plane to deviate from its flight path. It was learned that this VOR was not the Maputo VOR. It was also evident that the VOR followed by the aircraft played a fundamental role in the crash. Thus, it is important that this point be clarified completely to better ascertain the truth.

The Frelimo Party Central Committee Political Bureau is guided by the Mozambican party and people's interests in seeking the truth about the crash that killed President Samora Machel and his colleagues. It approves the position taken by the national commission of enquiry on the report presented by the South African commission of enquiry. It also believes that the investigation is not closed and reiterates its determination to use all means at its disposal to uncover the definitive cause of the tragic Mbuzini accident.

The struggle continues!
Maputo, 11 May 1987.

SOUTH AFRICA

SAPA Details Election Totals, Percentages

MB081826 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1820 GMT 8 May 87

[Text] Johannesburg, May 8, SAPA — Of the 3,019,607 registered voters in the constituencies that were contested in Wednesday's [6 May] election, 2,056,630 cast their votes, to give a percentage poll of 68.11 figures for the provinces were:

Cape Transvaal OFS Natal Total

[OFS — Orange Free State, NP — National Party, PFP — Progressive Federal Party, CP — Conservative Party, NRP — New Republic Party, HNP — Reconstructed National Party, IND — independents]

NP 335,793 526,919 93,497 119,299 1,075,508
PFP 95,420 123,657 2,612 66,885 288,574
CP 82,366 383,176 60,958 21,059 547,559
NRP 12,272 4,895 0 23,327 40,494
HNP 14,006 32,499 10,505 4,446 61,456
IND 13,417 11,201 0 2,531 27,149

spoilt
papers 4,622 8,815 934 1,519 15,890

Total votes
cast 557,896 1,091,162 168,506 239,066 2,056,630

No. Reg.
voters 811,970 1,617,747 229,558 360,332 3,019,607

Percent.
poll 68.71 67.45 73.40 66.35 68.11

Of the total votes cast the NP received 52.29 per cent;

The PFP 14.03 per cent
The CP 26.62 per cent
The NRP 1.97 per cent
The HNP 2.99 per cent
The independent candidates 1.32 per cent

The average number of votes received by the 478 candidates in the contested seats was 4302. Measured against this
NP candidates received on average 6557 votes
PFP candidates, 3519 votes
CP candidates, 4345 votes
NRP candidates, 2892 votes
HNP candidates, 714 votes and
IND candidates, 3393 votes

In the Cape province, of the total votes cast

The NP received 59.80 per cent
The PFP 16.9 per cent
The CP 15.3 per cent
The NRP 2.0 per cent
The HNP 2.7 per cent

The independent candidates 2.3 per cent, and spoilt papers accounted for 0.7 per cent of the votes cast

In the Transvaal, of the total votes cast

The NP received 48.41 per cent
The PFP 12.12 per cent
The NRP 0.44 per cent
The HNP 3.38 per cent
The independent candidtes 1.02 per cent, and spoilt papers accounted for 0.7 per cent of the votes cast.

In Natal, of the votes cast

The NP received 27.99 per cent
The PFP 27.99 per cent
The CP 8.81 per cent
The NRP 9.76 per cent
The HNP 1.33 per cent

The independent candidates 1.58 per cent, and spoilt papers accounted for 0.56 per cent of the votes cast.

In the Orange Free State, of the total votes cast,

The NP received 54.99 per cent
The PFP 1.54 per cent
The CP 37.32 per cent
The NRP 0.00 per cent
The HNP 5.63 per cent

There were no independent candidates, and spoilt papers accounted for 0.53 per cent of the votes cast.

Paper Claims Sanctions' Impact Varies Regionally

MB090735 Johannesburg THE WEEKLY MAIL in English 8-14 May 87 p 17

[By Auret van Heerden]

[Text] The imposition of sanctions against South Africa has moved from rhetoric to implementation, and the cost can now begin to be calculated.

To date, the impact of disinvestment has been limited and very few jobs have been lost.

In the 20 months from January 1985, 55 U.S. companies, employing a total of 8,679 people, left South Africa. Only 14, however, liquidated their local operations, affecting 594 employees. For the rest it was business as usual after they had been sold to local buyers, management, or overseas concerns.

Overseas pressure groups have now announced that they are dissatisfied with these new arrangements and will press those companies to sever all links with South Africa.

One cost that has yet to be calculated is the regional effect. The distribution of South Africa's economic activity is very uneven, with some 60 percent of it concentrated in the PWV [Pretoria, Witwatersrand, Vereeniging].

Regions like the Eastern Cape have been dying a slow economic death for some time, and not even generous government incentives have managed to attract sufficient investment.

This uneven distribution had left many regions dependent on one product or sector, and some of these are in turn dependent on exports for their growth. Sanctions could cut off those exports and put a few more nails in their economic coffin at the same time.

The Eastern Cape has already felt the impact of sanctions and disinvestment. The Ford and General Motors cutbacks have undermined what remains of the regional economy, which depends on the auto industry for 61 percent of its economic base.

Besides the other motor car firms, many of the tyre and component manufacturers are branches of multinational companies. A pull-out by any one affects the others and considering the auto industry is barely profitable anyway, the chain reaction could become unstoppable.

The Western Cape is not much better off. They have been struggling for years to expand their regional economy, but without success.

The fishing, fruit, wine and allied industries like canning, packaging and transport are major employers and income generators, particularly in the rural areas. They are also export products and one of the targets of the sanctions campaign.

The deciduous fruit industry employs some 140,000 overall, and about 50,000-70,000 of those are involved in production for export.

The UK and EC take 85 percent of the exports, and the high level of anti-apartheid awareness in those countries makes a consumer boycott likely.

The canned fruit industry is in a similar position. It exports 70 percent of its production, with the UK and EC as its main market. And the ripple effect of sanctions against canned fruit can be easily traced.

There are 3,000 farmers and 40,000 workers, who supply 10 canning factories in the Western Cape, employing a total of 7,000-10,000 people.

The canning industry spends R50 million a year on cans, and any cutback would affect Iscor [South African Iron and Steel Corp] which supplies the tin plate used to make them. Another R5-million is spent on cartons, R3-million on labels and R15-million on sugar. To this we must add the loss of business to the transport sector, mainly the railways and the reduction in harbour traffic.

Citrus exports are shipped via four harbours, Durban, Maputo, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town, any one of which would suffer if those orders were lost. The impact of boycotts and sanctions would also be spread throughout southern Africa as the region's production is centrally distributed. About 1,000 farmers supply produce for export to 32 countries, with the EC being the main market.

Exports account for 60 percent of citrus production but make up 90 percent of the gross earnings, and so any loss of export orders would have a disproportionately large effect on the 30,000 workers involved in export production.

Sugar production takes place in a narrow strip stretching from Transkei, through Natal, into the eastern Transvaal. The industry employs about 40,000 people in production for exports which account for about 50 percent of production.

There is an oversupply on the world market, so South Africa sugar can easily be boycotted. The U.S. and Canadian bans have already cut exports by 16 percent.

The two major customers, Japan (40 percent) and South Korea (20 percent), are likely to come under strong pressure to buy from the EC, which is sitting with a mountain of unsold sugar because of its incentive scheme which encourages farmers to produce sugar, regardless of market conditions.

The eastern Transvaal could also be hit by the sanctions on steel and coal. Witbank and Middleburg are basically steel towns, and with the world oversupply of steel, and increasing protectionist measures being applied to shelter overseas steel producers, their futures must be in doubt.

Ferro-alloys, however, are still in hot demand, and there is some scope for increasing the purification of South African ferro-alloys before export. This would boost employment and earnings.

The coal industry has also managed to maintain a very high level of exports in the face of intense boycott campaigns. But with the U.s. dollar falling fast, American coal could become competitive again. What's more, the U.S. may demand that Japan, South Africa's main customer, switch its order to the U.S. to help redress their huge trade imbalance.

If coal sanctions started to take effect, the eastern Transvaal and northern Natal would be hard hit. So would the railway links and the harbour at Richard's Bay.

How the government will respond to the threat of regional economic collapse is uncertain. Its misguided programme of regional development tied to the homelands has failed, and the sanctions pressures will only add to that.

It may decide to throw good money after bad and spend even more on "deconcentration", trying to coax industry into desolate areas to provide jobs for resettled communities. At the same time the government will blame sanctions for the perverse effect of its apartheid arithmetic.

The private sector is likely to vote with its feet and leave regions which are failing economically, even before sanctions hit home. Sheer profit motives will drive businessmen to the PWV in search of a better return on investment.

Information Bureau Issues 10 May Unrest Report

MB100836 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0833 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] Pretoria May 10 SAPA — The following is the Bureau for Information's unrest report for 12:01am to midnight May 9:

"Three separate incidents of stone throwing at police vehicles occurred in Lamontville (Durban). No damage was reported, no arrests took place and nobody was injured.

"A mob of 15 blacks petrolbombed a house in Kwamashu (Durban). Damage was estimated at R5000. No injuries or arrests were reported.

"In Sobantu (Pietermaritzburg) a mob of 20 blacks set a private vehicle alight. Damage was estimated at R8000. No arrests or injuries were reported.

"In another incident in the same township a SAP vehicle was stoned. Damage was estimated at R30. No arrests or injuries were reported.

"A mob of 20 blacks stoned a bus at Ntshingila (Harrysmith). Two black men sustained slight injuries. Damage was estimated at R400. Nobody was arrested.

"At Exolweni (Hofmeyer) a member of the security forces was attacked by blacks. He retaliated by firing a round of birdshot. One black man was wounded and arrested."

11 May Unrest Report

MB120731 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0725 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] Pretoria May 12 SAPA — The Bureau for Information's unrest situation report for the period 0001 to 2400 May 11 follows:

"Several incidents of arson and stoning of buses occurred in Botshabelo (Bloemfontein) yesterday. A black woman was slightly injured in one of the stoning incidents. No arrests were reported. Collective damage was indicated as extensive.

"A coloured youth was arrested when he and about 10 other persons stoned private vehicles in Bonteheuwel (Cape Town) yesterday. No injuries were reported.

"Other unrest related incidents reported during the above mentioned period comprised isolated stonings and petrol bomb attacks. No injuries or arrests were reported and damage was reported as minimal."

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

MB111019 [Editorial report]

SUNDAY STAR: NP Exploits White Fear

"Something akin to a tragedy befell South Africa this week," notes the page 14 editorial in Johannesburg *The Sunday Star* in English on 10 May. "The lurch to the Right taken by 2 million white voters must further imperil their long-term future, along with that of another 27 million South Africans and the peace prospects of an entire region." "The fault is that of the National Party, which so shamelessly exploited that most potent political weapon — fear — " to lead the voters "by the nose." "Now that the Conservatives are the official Opposition, Parliament's political focus shifts Rightwards and the Government will waste even more energy trying to appease that irrelevant political fringe. Post-election developments are likely to alienate still further the voteless and heighten racial polarisation. Increasingly the State will be pushed towards tougher repression of extra-parliamentary dissent (President Botha has promised that already) and further abandonment of basic rights." South Africans can only hope that "the growing dangers of our situation at home and abroad may eventually bring this Government to its senses. And that it will use its position of strength not to repress but to negotiate from strength."

Whites To Recognize Black Majority

Former leader of the Opposition Frederick van Zyl Slabbert writes on the same page that "white politics crossed a critical threshold in this election. The old division of English opposition versus Afrikaner government is finally gone. The confrontation is between parties who will now try to outbid each other in protecting 'white security'. And 'security' will become less and less of a parliamentary affair. This will increasingly bring government in confrontation with the extra-parliamentary forces of the opposition." "I suppose the most important conclusion which stares one in the face is that finally 'an enlightened, reform-orientated initiative' from Parliament that can find acceptability

from blacks is dead. Perhaps just as well. Better not to bluff ourselves about the future — I mean we whites. We will have to discover the seed of democracy where the majority live and sweat and toil; or else tuck in behind the ramparts. This election has destroyed the illusion that we can sit in the grandstands and also plan the game."

Change To Come From Outside Parliament

Aubrey Mokoena, a leading figure in the United Democratic Front and the Release Mandela Campaign, says on the same page: "My greatest fear now is that the result of the white election this week has sent out the message to blacks — 'We do not want you, nor do we need you'." "I fear an escalation in violence and conflict is becoming unavoidable. Those black 'moderates' who have been telling people that violence is not an answer and that a solution has to be found in negotiations have now been left looking rather foolish. It was tragic to see a white electorate being bullied and frightened by scare tactics to run back into the laager" [circled-wagon mentality].Instead of P.W. Botha "smugly smiling at the 'mandate' he got from only some of that 6.6 percent of South Africans he should be looking at the one he did not get — from black South Africans. That the Conservative Party is now the Opposition in Parliament actually suits the Government. The NP never had any intention of 'reforming' or 'changing' and with the CP as Opposition the Government will now be able to claim that this is slowing them down. It is time for democratic white South Africans to stand up and be counted. Parliament cannot and will not alter anything. Change can only come from outside Parliament and then only when we all get together."

Independents Only Hope

Dr Denis Worrall remarks on the same page that the "independent spirit" emerged as the "only hopeful and encouraging sign on an otherwise bleak and disturbing post-election scene." "At the end of this election we are even more convinced that the present Nationalist Government does not have the answers to the pressing problems of South Africa. It is still committed to 'reform' based on rigidly enforced racial segregation — not only in schools and residential areas, but also in the Government's 'own affairs' structures, and in its proposed Statutory Council for blacks. With the huge gains made by the Conservative Party, one can be sure there will be no backsliding on these issues; no real reform or real negotiations with blacks." "It is clear that the independents have a major responsibility, not only to those who irrevocably committed themselves to our cause, but also to millions of South Africans for whom there is little hope in the present political dispensation. Our showing in this election was just the beginning of a new spirit of hope in South Africa."

SUNDAY STAR: Afrikaner Split Growing

"The main indication about Afrikaner voters is that they are far from monolithic," says former managing director of Nasionale Pers [press] David de Villiers on page 14 of Johannesburg *The Sunday Star* in English on 10 may. "The CP scraped in as the official Opposition largely through a vacillating performance by the PFP. Among Afrikaners the politics of the Right are rejected by the large majority. That majority has again voted mostly for the ruling NP." But, De Villiers says the "independents received intimations from many voters that they were in effect agreeing with them but were giving the NP a last chance." "Notwithstanding bleak general appearances, I believe there are growing numbers of Afrikaners willing to work with all like-minded South Africans towards building the new South Africa, with hope and justice for all."

PFP Fails to Stem Apprehension

Page 15 carries an unsigned commentary which says the average man on the street "failed to support the PFP because the party's appeals went straight over his head. At the same time the party is perceived as one run by liberal English and Jews. 'The party cannot shake this off,' said UCT [University of Cape Town] political scientist Professor Robert Schire. 'Its policies have great support but it is not seen as the tool which will bring about change.'" The PFP "failed to stem the groundswell of emotional apprehension stoked by the Government and its fortuitous allies, the ANC, against a background of unrest strikes, bombings and student demonstrations." "Prof Schire believes the election has removed the centre ground. 'The country is polarising between increasingly assertive black nationalism on the one side and the Government on the other. The middle ground will become untenable.'"

CP Obstacle To Reform

John Maclennan says on the same page that instead of an opposition which has always urged the NP to "go farther and faster, which has helped open the way and prepared voters for change" the NP will now be "confronted by the CP which will gather votes from the NP's own power base by labelling every concession to blacks as a sell-out of whites." "President Botha may find he is a prisoner of his own best intentions. He won't be able to abandon reform, he has no course but reform, and yet he may face disaster if he continues with it." P.W. Botha notes that "'if the Government does not allow itself to be influenced (by the CP as official Opposition) and keeps on with its middle-of-the-road and Leftist policies, then it will lose support. It also knows there are people within its own ranks who support the CP.'"

Whites Vote For Confrontation

"White South Africans have convincingly voted for confrontation and John Vorster's ghastly alternatives," writes Jon Qwelane in the "Just Jon" column on page 17. "The fundamental effect of the election, which was all about black people, was that, as always, whites talked past us and about us, when they should be talking with us." President Botha indicated at his election rally in Johannesburg that those blacks to be included in the national council "will not be people 'who sit across the border' but people acceptable to him and the white electorate. Yet it is the 'people who sit across the border' with whom he should be talking as they are essential to any lasting and peaceful solution to the apartheid mess Mr Botha and his colleagues have saddled us all with." "If anything, Wednesday's whites-only election will play nicely into the hands of those wanting to overthrow the Government by force. But when the day of reckoning comes, as it indeed will, let not a single white South African stand up and, like the Germans after the fall of Nazism, say: 'We did not know.'"

White Election Choice No Inspiration for Blacks

On the front page of the "Review" section of *The Sunday Star* political correspondent David Breier says the "election result was bad for the country because it has been interpreted throughout the world and by black South Africans as the white man's defiant

reaction to demands for genuine black rights." "To the world, South Africa has now become the country with the most racist Government on the globe — and whose official opposition is even more racist." "To black South Africans, whites are now people who tend to support either racist Nats [NP] or extreme racist CP's. That is seen as the real choice for whites. Is this meant to inspire blacks to participate in this democracy — in their 'own affairs' city states and 'general affairs' national council as the Government wishes?"

SUNDAY STAR: AWB To Influence CP

Political correspondent David Breier writes on the front page of the "Review" section of *The Sunday Star* that "when Parliament reopens this month, the seat of the Leader of the official Opposition will no longer be occupied by a man with the ear of big business and the liberal establishment. The new Leader of the Opposition, Dr Andries Treurnicht (66), leader of the Conservative Party will gain his sustenance from the likes of the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging [AWB] and the Afrikaner Volkswag [Afrikaner National Watch]." "The AWB leadership was sympathetic to the CP in the election, blaming the HNP for wrecking right-wing unity." "Since the Nat Government set out in the elections systematically to destroy the liberal opposition rather than the far right wing, opposition politics in South Africa may never be the same."

Security Apparatus Not Solution

MP for Yeoville Harry Schwarz notes in the "Talking Cents" column that despite the NP victory "there are really major difficulties ahead. The image in South Africa and abroad that white voters have not been prepared to take a step forward in reform, is as much if not more, the country's problem than the PFP's. The NP may regard itself as a party of reform, but it is not perceived as such by many people. The real danger of pressure from the Right and of reaction politics, needs to be considered. The need to make some decisions on vital matters such as black participation in central Government and on the Group Areas Act is apparent to all and cannot be postponed indefinitely." "The need to put the economy right on a long-term basis, the spectre of the consequences of massive unemployment, the continuing unrest situation and the likelihood of more pressure from abroad all face the Government. The electorate voted mainly on the issue of security. They ignored however the more important aspects of how to achieve such security. To achieve it requires not merely a security apparatus, but political, constitutional and economic solutions."

SUNDAY TIMES on Elections

"Bizarrely, we shall now have an opposition assailing the ruling party for being too liberal," remarks a page 22 editorial in Johannesburg *Sunday Times* in English on 10 May. "The NP would be wise to ensure that it — and not the CP — sets the political agenda. More, a party with such a mighty majority can no longer use the excuse of electoral vulnerability for not delivering on promises that were left on the wrong side of the Rubicon." "The wise course — and prudent, too, for their support in three seats is but a sample of something much more widespread — would be to correctly read the message contained in the backing for Independents. The possibility of a breakaway to the centre-left is every bit as real as anything he [P.W. Botha] faces from the CP. Then there's the PFP, bloodied but certainly not bowed. Its presence in Parliament, though much reduced, is a reassuring guarantee that the watchdogs of civil liberties have not been totally stifled."

Unhelpful To Repress Opposition Groups

A second editorial on the same page says the government has been given the mandate it sought to negotiate with blacks for their inclusion in decision-making but "the difference between negotiation and consultation has long been blurred in the NP's dictionary. The Government can no more choose leaders for the black community than should foreign powers select the leaders for white South Africans. Neither is it helpful simply to repress opposition groups, even radical ones, because they do not accept the NP rules of the game. The resistance to change on the part of whites, as revealed in the elections, is matched by an equal black rejection of the status quo, as evinced by a successful work stayaway called after 18 months of emergency. Backed with that 52 percent of the vote, one can only hope the NP will now judge the time right to make that leap of courage."

Radical Element Surfaces in Moderate Spectrum

Martie Meiring says on the same page: "With its penchant to categorise and create divisions, Afrikaner rhetoric has hit on a new word to divide and recognise — drumpel (threshold). To cross this threshold means a new commitment, a new rethink." "A head count of threshold men would read pretty much the same as the now presumed 'thirty' new Nats ["liberal" National Party members] in Parliament. Add to this the independents and their following and one conjures up quite a radical element surfacing in the broad so-called moderate spectrum."

SUNDAY TIMES Expects More Independent Support

"It is truly astounding that an improvident government so lacking in eptness, so clothed in undemocratic power, so unsqueamishly reliant on repressive force, and so unable to meet the first test of good government — sound management — should be so mightily swept back into office," says *Sunday Times* editor Tertius Myburgh on page 23. "For the NP, all retreat back into the olden days of uncomplicated, unadorned apartheid has been cut off," since that terrain is "now securely occupied by the Conservatives." Myburgh further says that "it is not fanciful to predict that the ideas so tentatively floated by the Independents will become the ones around which a new opposition movement will form. One of the most prominent Independent supporters, Mr David de Villiers, believes (in my view, correctly) that there is an iceberg aspect to the movement and a huge portion of its potential lies below the surface, even within the NP itself." "As the futility of the NP's opaque waffle about reform and the inadequacy of its actions become more widely apparent, support" for the independents "must surely grow."

BEELD on Electoral Message

"The South African electorate has told certain political leaders of this country that it has lost its patience with politicians who collude with those who want to destroy South Africa," says a page 10 editorial in Johannesburg *Beeld* in Afrikaans on 8 May. *Beeld* believes the electorate has also said to black people: "Leave the militant leaders who have secured only sorrow and poverty. South Africans want to live in peace but will not be intimidated. To the English press: Thank you once again for steering every honorable South African to the NP through your

anti-South African politics."

12 May Press Review

MB121109 [Editorial report]

CITIZEN: PFP To Play Conscience Role

The page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 9 May says that even if the PFP linked up with the independent candidates in a new party, "jointly they would not be an alternative government. For 82 percent of the electorate rejected the kind of values they stand for. And we have no doubt that a new party on the Left would not do any better than the so-called Reform Alliance." But *The Citizen* still believes the PFP "has a role to play as the conscience of South Africa. It is needed on the Left, to push the alternatives that are not acceptable to the Centre or Right."

CP No Threat To NP

"We do not think this swing to the Right need cause the NP any sleepless nights," remarks Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 11 May in its page 6 editorial. "It has about double the votes of the CP and more than five times as many seats. It is in no danger. Having virtually eliminated the Left, the NP will be able to concentrate more on fighting the Right, next time round." "With the CP as the Official Opposition, there will be a greater emphasis on race, White survival and the other issues that concern the Right. The Government is going to find it harder to deal with the Right-wing attacks of the CP than the Left-wing criticism of the PFP. Nevertheless, we can only hope that the CP will act with the responsibility that its new status demands of it. We certainly do not want to return to the race politics of earlier days."

STAR Against Kwandebele Independence

A page 8 editorial in Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 11 May comments on the decision by the Kwandebele homeland to opt for independence, saying "there is no evidence to suggest Pretoria is behind the decision, but the Government is obviously not displeased by it. Yet it would be a grave mistake if the Government allowed dogma to blind it to pitfalls of the road the territory has chosen." "This nominal independence, which no country in the world will recognise, cannot be so important as to justify the misery that must follow. Satellite states are already giving the State such a headache it should require no urging from anyone to review the policy. The country, its nerves on edge, should be spared another source of conflict."

BUSINESS DAY on Voter Gullibility

"President P.W. Botha's first reformist action after the election was to start kicking decent people out of their homes in terms of the Group Areas Act," notes Johannesburg *Business Day* in English on 11 May in a page 6 editorial. "Voters who opted for Botha as the reformist hope can look forward to more crackdowns, more evictions, more forced removals, more apartheid." Voters "allowed themselves to be stampeded into the Nationalist kraal [tribal village] by a crude campaign playing on emotional fears about blacks, communists and the ANC. They voted against candidates supporting the Natal Indaba, SA's first regional proposal reached through negotiation between white and black." There is now a "government — and an Opposition — more intent on pandering to white prejudice than addressing reformist pressure. The remarkable thing about SA's reformist white voters is not their immorality, but their gullibility."

Owen Advises PFP To Follow Independents

On the same page Ken Owen remarks on the "wholesale flight of English voters from the PFP to the National Party" saying: "Church, state, language, education and press — none has retained the power to bind the English community, to uphold its values, or to preserve its traditions and its manners. The glue has gone, and the English have scattered in all directions, without common purpose. Some cling to the skirts of Mrs Mandela, and accept the leadership of the UDF or the Black Students Society; others think the ambitious Worrall or the gentle Wynand Malan can lead them out of their crisis of identity. Many wander in a spiritual wilderness." Owen says that the PFP, "in reviewing its mistakes and planning its future, will do well to listen to its voters more carefully, and lecture them less." The PFP should "tuck neatly into the slipstream of Wynand Malan and his fellow-independents."

CAPE TIMES: Whites in NP Laager

A page 8 editorial in Cape Town *Cape Times* in English on 8 May says the whites have stampeded "headlong into laager" [circled-wagon mentality]. "Change and reform are as dead as the Dodo. The whites are going into laager. Parliament will seem increasingly irrelevant as government by force becomes a way of life and the security establishment takes hold of the levers of power."

SOWETAN Predicts Return of Instability

"After the fateful elections that showed a massive swing to the right the Government is wasting no time in showing the trend of things to come by launching a nationwide crackdown on people contravening the Group Areas Act," notes Johannesburg *Sowetan* in English on 11 May in its page 6 editorial. "All the business about reform is about to come to an end and perhaps even be reversed. The flow of blacks, Indians and coloureds into white areas, which has continued almost unchecked in recent years, is about to be halted and even reversed. There is going to be the slow erosion of the so-called reforms that were set in line by a shaky system." *Sowetan* believes the country "is about to move several steps backwards to the rigid apartheid days." "There are straws in the wind that the instability that was in a way checked by the state of emergency and other aggressive Government measures, will return. We will have the recurrence of the ugly things we saw in the past few years. If this is what white South Africans voted for, then we can only say their myopia is bigger than we ever thought it to be."

'Focus' On NP Halt to Reform

"The victorious National Party Government has slammed the door on significant race reforms, and has warned that it will take steps which could cripple non-racial, extra-parliamentary organizations working for a new democratic South Africa," says the "Focus" column on the same page. "A Government source said the NP believed no lasting solution could be found while glaring economic, educational and other social differences existed between the different race groups. Its view was that there was no point in scrapping measures such as the Group Areas Act or the

Population Registration Act because this would not remove existing inequities. He also made it clear that little reform could be expected in the existing climate of unrest and that the Government would take whatever measures it felt necessary to contain it."

Country to Deteriorate After Election

Aggrey Klaaste writes in the "On the Line" column on page 7 that "after what happened at the polls last week we can only say that the situation in this country will deteriorate rapidly till we slide down the precipice screaming for help." "After three to four years of death and destruction in the black townships, some of us shudder to think what the response will be from those quarters when the Government keeps on cracking (as it has to) the right-wing whip."

RAPPORT Publishes Necklace Victim Photographs

Johannesburg *Rapport* in Afrikaans on 10 May on pages 1 and 5 carries photographs of charred victims of necklace murders under the headline "Necklace Children." Another photograph on page 5 shows young black children giving the black power salute, and the caption reads: "Youth Violence. The bloodthirsty participation of black children in the acts of violence in South Africa is causing concern in the ANC leader[ship] in Lusaka."

Independents Greater Threat to NP

The head of the Center for Research Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand, Prof Lawrence Schlemmer, says on page 10 that to interpret the election results as a swing to the right is misleading. "The impression that voters from the PFP shifted to the NP and voters from the NP shifted to the CP" is "horribly misleading and superficial." Schlemmer points out that the "right-wing parties have fared worse than was expected from the results of the 1981 by-elections." Schlemmer further points out that the "victory of Wynand Malan in Randburg and the solid performances of Esther Lategan and Denis Worrall indicate a moderate swing of support from the center to the left, to the independents." The NP is "faced with a challenge. Unless it goes forward fulfilling its mandate, a new opposition — the independents — will be its greatest challenge in upcoming elections."

BEELD on Group Areas

"If it still happens that mixed-marriage couples are forced to move to the [residential] group area of the colored marriage partner, it will make a mockery of all the nice words" spoken by government leaders during the recent general election, says Johannesburg *Beeld* in Afrikaans on 11 May in a page 8 editorial. The "prohibition of the mixed marriages act should then rather have remained on the statute book."

Burger on NP Victory

A page 14 editorial in Cape Town *Die Burger* in Afrikaans on 8 May says the NP can "consider its recent electoral victory as one of the most remarkable in decades. Since it came to power in 1948 there has seldom been such a strong shifting of loyalties in favor of the NP. The NP also had to fight off a heavy onslaught from the left as well as from the far rightwing." *Die Burger* says the independents managed to "enchant many voters," but "what concrete solution do they have for the country's central problems? South Africa cannot survive on slogans."

NAMIBIAN: No Democracy in Country

"Despite claims by the Cabinet of the interim government that freedom of movement and other aspects of 'freedom' were not being trampled on, Namibians continue to be denied passports and travel facilities to attend conferences or pay visits abroad," remarks the page 12 editorial in Windhoek *The Namibian* in English on 8 May. "Namibia has moved no closer to democracy and quite to the contrary, we are teetering on the brink of a totalitarian regime which has no respect for people's basic rights and freedoms."

Reconciliation Attempts 'Pretense'

"What appears to be the 'official policy' of the interim government, which is propped up by a similar-thinking police force and army, namely that 'SWAPO is the enemy', creates problems of various nature for various sections of Namibian society," says Gwen Lister in the "Political Perspective" column on page 13. "It would be appropriate at this stage for the interim government to state its position most clearly on this issue. If they consider SWAPO 'the enemy', then they must forget the pretensions to so-called 'reconciliation.' If those organisations or individuals who travel to Lusaka, if only to inform themselves, are to be threatened and intimidated for something which is apparently in line with the Cabinent's own 'programme of action', then the pretence of 'reconciliation' must be dropped once and for all."

ZIMBABWE

Government Accuses RSA of Apartment Bombing

MB111944 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1939 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Harare May 11 SAPA — One young Zimbabwean woman was killed and several people received minor injuries when an explosion — believed caused by a bomb — ripped through a second floor apartment at Earls Court in Harare this evening.

ZIANA, Zimbabwe's semi-official news agency, reports that South Africa has been blamed for the blast.

Police cordoned off the area and the bomb disposal squad sifted through the rubble to establish the cause of the blast, which totally demolished apartment number 7.

Journalists who went to the scene said it appeared the device went off in the bedroom of the apartment, demolishing the walls and everything within.

A ZBC [Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation] crew, which tried to film the mutilated remains of the young woman, aroused the anger of the officers there, who threatened to confiscate the film. The body had been torn apart by the blast.

The minister of state (security), Mr Emmerson Munangagwa, who was on the scene within minutes, said that the blast was the work of "our enemy, South Africa." "We believe that our enemy, South Africa is responsible," he said, when he briefed newsmen viewing the demolished flat and the dead woman.

He said that Zimbabwe had been aware that after the May 6 whites only elections in South Africa, there would be bombings

in Zimbabwe, Zambia and Botswana, and that this had been expected.

He said that "one innocent Zimbabwean young girl" had been killed in the blast, and that several other people had received cuts, "but these do not warrant medical attention." He said only Zimbabwean civilians lived in the area and at the block of flats there were no South Africans and no army personnel.

"From our intelligence, we know that South Africa is responsible. We strongly condemn the South Africans' dastardly act of killing innocent civilians in our country," he said. "All the evidence points to South Africa."

Mr Munangagwa, who was accompanied by the minister of home affairs, Mr Enos Nkala, said that the young woman had already been identified and here relatives were at the scene of the blast, but he declined to give here name.

The bomb disposal squad was still going through the debris to determine the cause of the blast, and Mr Munangagwa said amore detailed statement would be issued later.

A South African Defence Force spokesman in Pretoria said "this was a typical reaction to the senseless and barbaric murder of four farmers in Zimbabwe at the weekend and is no more than an absurd attempt to yet again try to use South Africa as a scape goat for their own deteriorating internal security situation."

Police Prohibit ZAPU Meeting in Bulawayo

MB091229 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 9 May 87

[Text] It is reported from Zimbabwe that the police have prohibited a meeting of the opposition ZAPU Party in Bulawayo on Sunday [10 May].

The leader of the party, Mr Joshua Nkomo, was to have delivered the main address at the meeting. It would have been the first meeting of the ZAPU Party since the collapse of merger negotiations last month with the ruling ZANU Party of the prime minister, Mr Robert Mugabe. The report says Mr Nkomo was expected to have dealt at length on the reasons for the collapse of the major negotiations for which he has blamed the ruling party. No reasons for the ban were given.